

GAME PREVIEW

The Texas Game

FIVE QUESTIONS

Jeremiah Sirles

HIS TOP 5

Eyes of Texas

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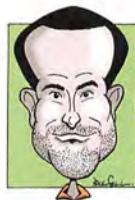


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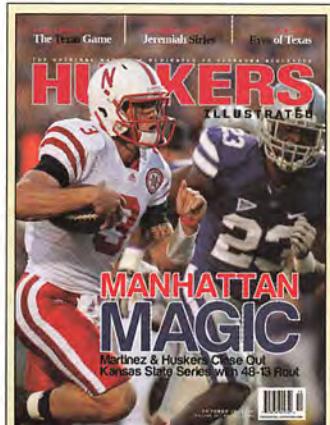


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THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Martinez stands out on national stage



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Taylor Martinez breaks free from the Kansas State defense for one of his four rushing touchdowns in Nebraska's final conference meeting against Kansas State. Martinez rushed for 241 yards and finished with 369 yards of total offense.

Photo by Scott Bruhn


This is when 40 years of experience comes in handy.
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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 13, the Texas recap and Oklahoma State preview, will be mailed Monday, Oct. 18. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

FOND FAREWELL?

Huskers are anything but sentimental in final trip to Manhattan



IT'S POSSIBLE that nobody will be more pleased about Nebraska's move to the Big Ten than Kansas State fans.

In a series that dates back to 1911 and has been uninterrupted since 1923, the Huskers rudely closed out the final conference meeting between these schools with a 48-13 drubbing in Manhattan in front of a national audience.

Talk about leaving on a high note. Kansas State fans will also be happy to know they won't be facing Taylor Martinez for the remainder of his career - although they may have nightmares about him for the foreseeable future. In his first-ever conference game, the redshirt freshman turned in a banner performance, rushing for 241 yards and four touchdowns on just 15 carries.

The Huskers were indifferent to the electric crowd, methodically building a 17-3 halftime lead despite running just 25 plays. Then Nebraska made the emphatic exit, finishing with 587 yards, including 451 on the ground.

Despite the lop-sided game (which was pretty representative of the previous 94 meetings), I will miss this

series. Maybe I'm in the minority, but I have always enjoyed visiting Manhattan over the years.

There's something enjoyable playing an opponent that is just a few hours down the road. When you walk through tailgaters, it's not uncommon to see the split parties, made up of purple and red.

Some might argue the same about any of the former Big Eight rivalries, but I'm not convinced I'll feel the same sense of loss after I drive home from Stillwater, Ames or College Station.

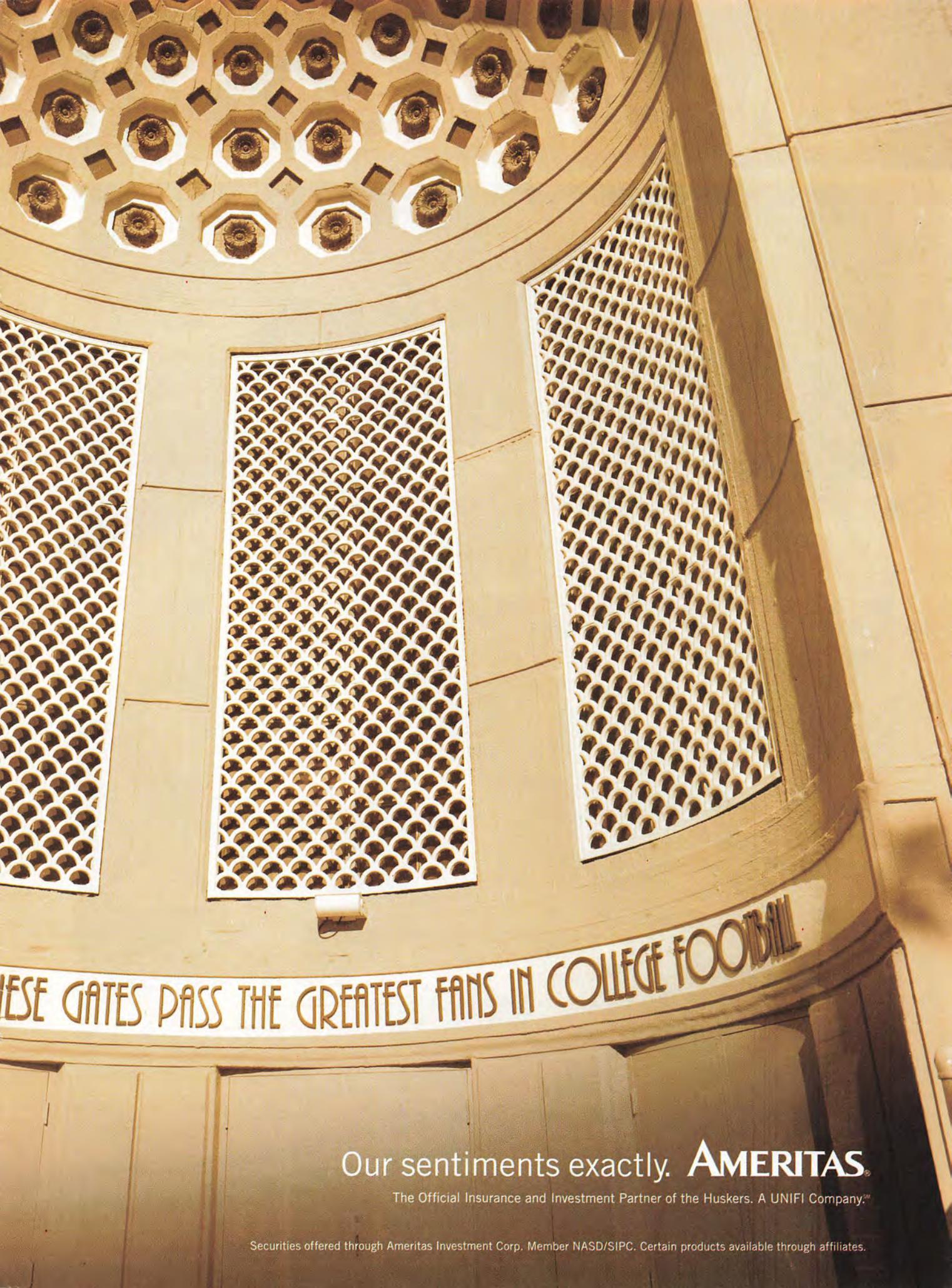
On another note, I think it's worth pointing out where the Huskers have come in the last 12 months. Almost a year ago the Huskers dropped their second straight game with a loss to Iowa State. Since that turnover-plagued loss, Nebraska is 11-1 with its only loss coming in the final loss against...

Yeah, you remember.

The Husker can try to avenge that loss on Saturday. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

THROUGH T



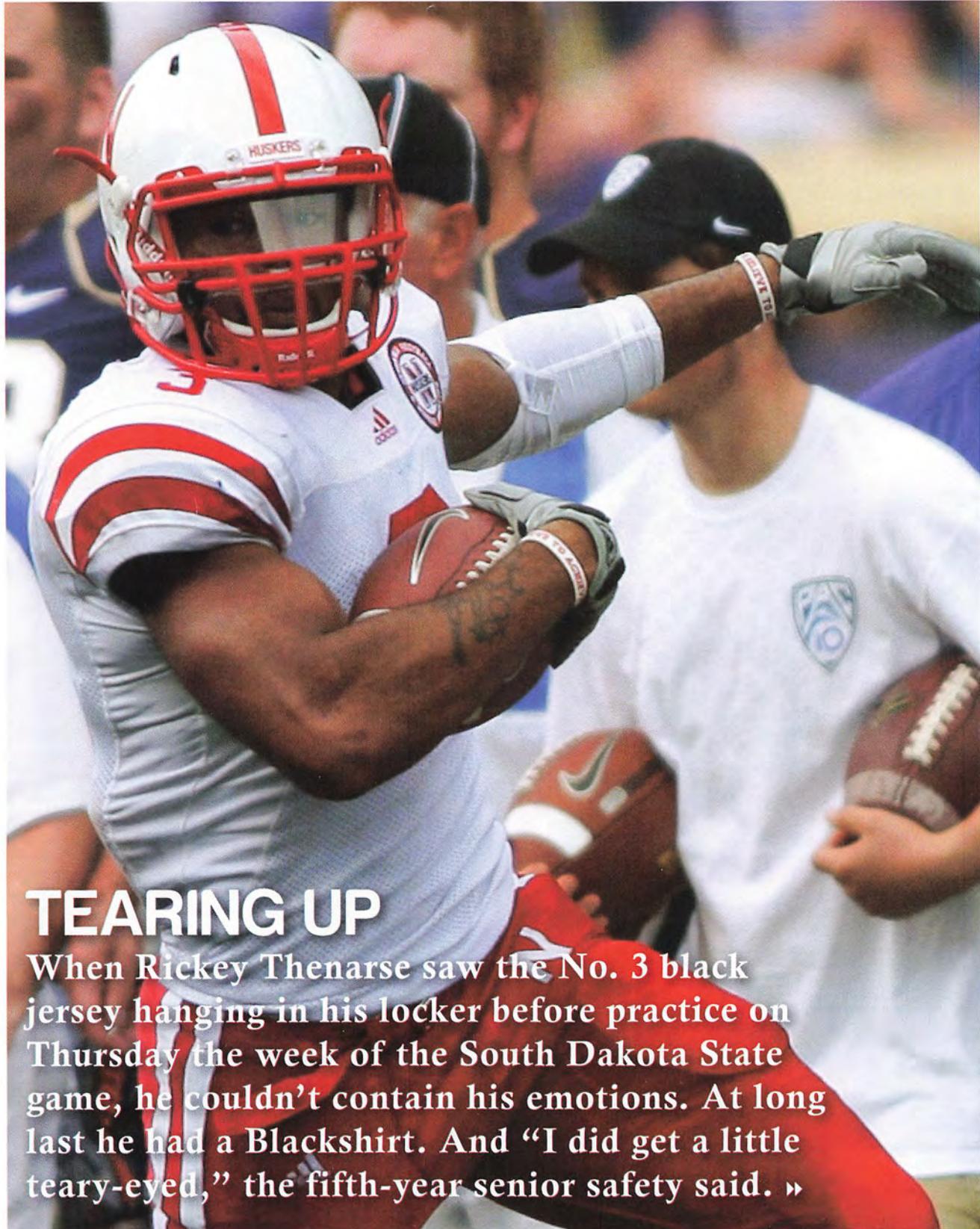
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TEARING UP

When Rickey Thenarse saw the No. 3 black jersey hanging in his locker before practice on Thursday the week of the South Dakota State game, he couldn't contain his emotions. At long last he had a Blackshirt. And "I did get a little teary-eyed," the fifth-year senior safety said. »

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Thenarse was among 12 Cornhusker defenders who found the Blackshirts in their lockers that day. Before Eric Martin could process the information, teammate Dontrayevous Robinson, an I-back, "ran and jumped on me and said, 'You got a Blackshirt,'" said Martin, a sophomore linebacker.

"I said, 'What?' I wasn't ready for it. I wasn't expecting it at all."

Martin, like Thenarse, hadn't earned a Blackshirt before. Neither had four others: Lavonte David, Cameron Meredith, Baker Steinkuhler and P.J. Smith.

Thenarse has been at Nebraska a lot longer than the other first-time Blackshirts. David is a junior college transfer in his first season, while the others, like Martin, are sophomores.

Distribution of the black jerseys, a tradition that dates to 1964, has changed under Bo Pelini. He hasn't identified a timetable, indicating only that they have to be earned. In 2008, Pelini's first season, Blackshirts weren't awarded until after the Kansas game in early November. Last season, they were awarded the week of the Texas Tech game in mid-October.

HAVING A BLACKSHIRT "RAISES THE LEVEL OF PLAY ON THE FIELD," THENARSE SAID. "IT PUTS A STAMP ON YOU. IT PUTS A TOUGH-GUY MENTALITY ON YOU AND JUST KEEPS RAISING THE BAR, HIGHER AND HIGHER."

Prior to Pelini's arrival, "it just kind of seemed like it was all politics," Thenarse said. Some who didn't deserve them were given Blackshirts, while others who should have gotten them didn't.

In 2007, when Thenarse was a sophomore, playing primarily on special teams, senior cornerback Zack Bowman turned in his Blackshirt early in the season because he didn't think he was playing up to the standard. By that gesture, Bowman showed what being a Blackshirt means, according to Thenarse. "He was a stand-up guy, and he did things the right way," said Thenarse.

By season's end, the rest of the Blackshirts had been pulled by the coaches.

Having a Blackshirt "raises the level of play on the field," Thenarse said. "It puts a stamp on you. It puts a tough-guy mentality on you and just keeps raising the bar, higher and higher."

A Blackshirt has to "be a leader," said Martin. "You've got to step up when everybody else doesn't want to, through the pain, through injury; you've got to fight it. There's no taking a break."

Marvin Sanders, Thenarse's position coach, earned a Blackshirt when he played safety for the Huskers. "He cried when he got his... it should be like that," Thenarse said.

"So after I got mine, I kind of know what he was talking about."

HI'S TOP 5

THE EYES OF TEXAS



Prior to the formation of the Big 12, Nebraska held a 3-1 advantage in games against Texas. Since the teams have become conference rivals, however, Texas holds an 8-1 advantage. Three of those nine games have been for the Big 12 title, and all but one have gone to the wire.

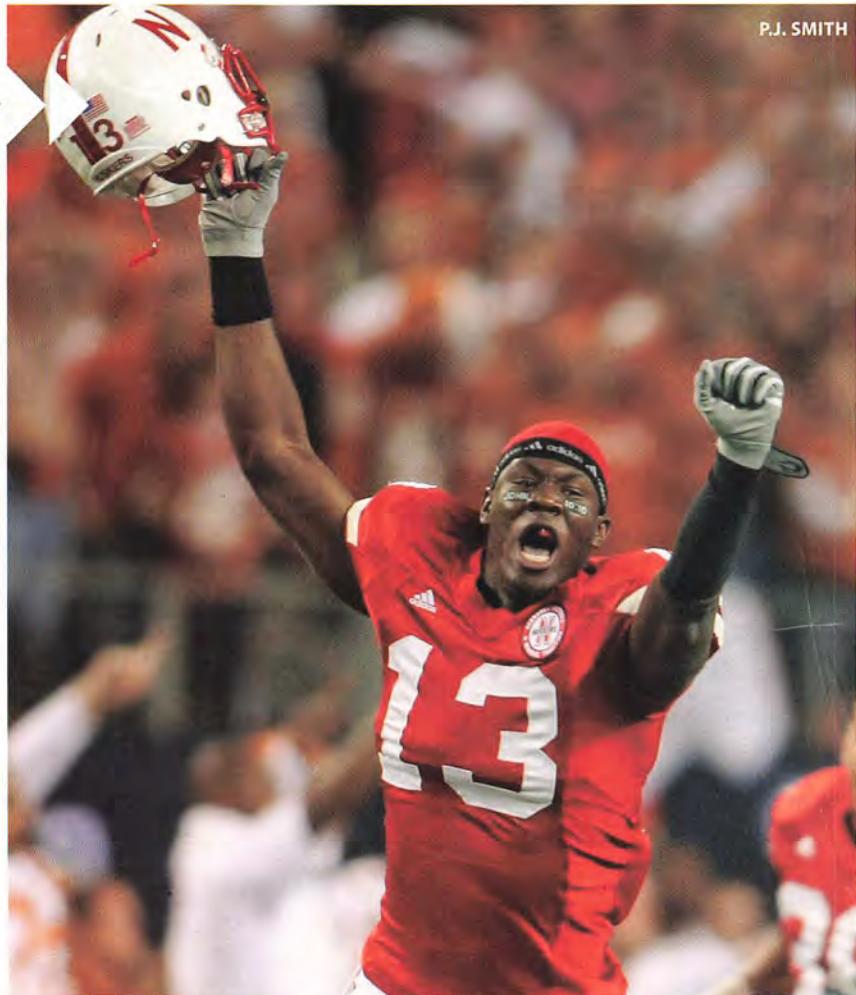
Here are five in the series to remember:

- 1 NEBRASKA 22, TEXAS 6** (San Antonio) Dec. 4, 1999; The Huskers avenge a regular-season loss in the Big 12 Championship game (see Games Remembered).
- 2 NEBRASKA 19, TEXAS 3** (Dallas) Jan. 1, 1974; Tom Osborne's first team upsets the No. 8-ranked 'Horns in the Cotton Bowl.
- 3 NEBRASKA 14, TEXAS 3** (Austin) Sept. 17, 1960; Bill Jennings had a knack for coaching upsets, none more dramatic than this against the pre-season No. 4 'Horns.
- 4 TEXAS 13, NEBRASKA 12** (Arlington, Texas) Dec. 5, 2009; Hey, buddy, got a second?
- 5 TEXAS 22, NEBRASKA 20** (Lincoln) Oct. 21, 2006; Walk-on Ryan Bailey's field goal with 23 seconds remaining wins it for the No. 5-ranked 'Horns.

MENTORING

During pre-season practice, sophomore safety P.J. Smith encouraged freshman Harvey Jackson, a defensive back from Fresno, Texas. "It's not easy trying to come in and learn just like that, especially at the safety spot because you've got to communicate with everybody," said Smith.

He spoke from experience. "My freshman year, the first camp when I got here, I thought it was going to be like high school, 'cover 3, cover 4, stay deep.' They come with all these terms, and I'm sitting there like, 'What the hell you talking about?'" Smith said. "So I know how the young guys feel . . ."



P.J. SMITH

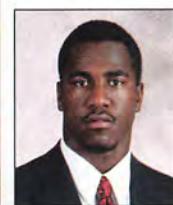
PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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LEARNING ON THE RUN



LAVONTE DAVID Granted, linebacker played two seasons at Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College, where he earned All-America honors. Nevertheless, the fact he started the first game and already has a Blackshirt surprised sophomore linebacker Alonzo Whaley. "I was like, 'Dang, I've been here for almost three years. He came in and learned the defense in a month,'" said Whaley.

One aspect of that hasn't been surprising, however. "Regardless if he was wrong, he was (going) 100 miles an hour," Whaley said. "And that's what this coaching staff likes to see."

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ALFONZO DENNARD (L) AND DEJON GOMES

SIDELINES



PLAYERS' COACH

Is Bo Pelini a players' coach?

"Oh, definitely," Ben Cotton said.

Cotton is probably a good

source to speak on the subject. The sophomore tight end is, after all, a coach's son. His dad, Barney, coaches the Cornhusker offensive line.

"He's a players' coach because he relates to us real well," Ben Cotton said of Pelini.

"He knows all the ins and outs of college, going to class, all the stuff we deal with off the field. He addresses just about every area of being a student-athlete. He expects not just the most of us on the field, giving our full effort, but he's creating good young men on this team, going to class, doing well in class, treating people with respect off the field."

Cotton earned first-team Academic All-Big 12 recognition last season, with a 3.294 cumulative grade-point average in business administration. He's been on the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll four times. And he's a member of the 2010 Brook Berringer Citizenship Team.

"He's got our backs," Cotton said of Pelini. "We definitely know that. And that's why I'm confident in saying this whole team's got his back, too."

Video-Game Champ

When defensive backs DeJon Gomes and Alfonzo Dennard met for the first time, "well, it's kind of like a story to it," said Gomes. "He cheated on a video game." Dennard denies he cheated, of course.

This much is true, regardless of the version. They were playing EA Sports NCAA Football 2009 in Dennard's dorm room. Gomes' team was Ohio State. "He was Florida," Gomes said.

"I think Penn State," said Dennard.

"You're right," Gomes said.

In any case, "I was winning and (at) halftime, he just left," Gomes said. "He was gone for about an hour, and I was waiting in his room. He went to like another teammate's room and was practicing what I was doing, like it was a real game. Then he came back."

And won the game.

Dennard claims he left to meet someone, not to practice.

Whatever the truth in that particular instance, Gomes admits Dennard "kind of has the upper-hand in college (football video games) because I play Madden (Madden NFL) more. We're in college, so I don't really like playing the college game. I play Madden, and I am THE champ in Madden."

Rickey Thenarse tells a different story.

"The last time me and him (Gomes) played, I beat him the first game. He beat me the second game, and he didn't want to play me anymore," said Thenarse. "After I beat him, I gave him a rematch. He beat me and didn't want to give me a rematch. So he's not the champion."

FRESH LEGS: Brandon Kinnie and Niles Paul are both returning kicks as well as catching passes this season. "Both of them play a big role in the special-teams game," receivers coach Ted Gilmore said. "I've got to watch that. I've got to spell them here and there. That's on me. They're trying to give us a look and help us out. But by the same token, I've got to make sure they have fresh legs when they're out there."



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Premier Scholar-Athlete Award

Husker senior kicker Adi Kunalic is among 121 semi-finalists for the 2010 William V. Campbell Trophy as well as candidates for the 2010 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards.

The candidates come from schools in all NCAA divisions as well as the NAIA.

Semi-finalists for the Campbell Trophy, formerly known as the Draddy Trophy, must be seniors or graduate students in their final season of eligibility. They must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, be a first-team player or significant contributor, and

have demonstrated strong leadership and citizenship.

Fifteen finalists will be announced in late October, and each will receive an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship. The Campbell Trophy winner, to be announced at an awards dinner in New York City on Dec. 7, will receive a \$25,000 scholarship and bronze trophy. The trophy was first presented in 1990. Huskers Rob Zatechka (1994) and Kyle Vanden Bosch (2000) have won it.

Last year's winner was Florida quarterback Tim Tebow.

SIDELINES



NO SURPRISE HERE

Penn State president Graham Spanier is happy about the decision to make Nebraska and Penn State designated football rivals when the Cornhuskers join the Big Ten next season. He told the Associated Press, "I thought it would be great if Penn State and Nebraska ended up being the crossover schools." That stands to reason. Spanier was formerly chancellor at Nebraska.

"The rivalry in football has been especially noteworthy," he said.



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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm



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OVERCOMING HUMAN NATURE

A reflection of Nebraska's consistency during Tom Osborne's 25 seasons as head coach was the fact that his teams lost only once to an opponent that finished the season with a losing record.

Iowa State upset the Cornhuskers at Ames in 1992, 19-10, but finished 4-7.

Teams often overlook lesser opponents, and "human nature is part of it," Bo Pelini said before the South Dakota State game. "But we ask our guys to overcome human nature and push them along. It's always going to be a factor, but as a coaching staff and a coach, you have to work and do something to overcome that, constantly talk to them about it, challenge them, and do different things to enable your team to move forward so you don't make a dip in the road."

Pelini needn't be concerned about his team looking past this week's opponent, Texas. However, human nature could be a factor in a different way. The Huskers could be too emotionally charged after what happened against Texas last December in the Big 12 Championship game.



Here's a new term for your football dictionary: "Thud-up."

Husker quarterbacks aren't wearing green no-contact jerseys during practice, so how are they protected from taking too much of a physical pounding, particularly with the run emphasis of redshirted freshman Taylor Martinez (who carried a team-high 53 times in non-conference play)?

"We don't tackle in practice, but we 'thud-up,'" offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "Our practices are very physical, and we go after each other,

especially when we go good-on-good. We do that quite a bit, more than any place I've ever been."

The physicality, an emphasis by coach Bo Pelini, is "a good thing because we want that competitive edge when it comes Saturday," said Watson.

The Huskers tackled during fall camp. Not so now.

"We thud everybody up," Watson said. "You watch our thud-ups, our thud-ups usually end up being pretty good thud-ups. Guys usually end up being on the ground and getting thud-up pretty well."

PAINFUL EMPATHY



Defensive backs coach Marvin Sanders understands the often-brash attitude of incoming freshman scholarship recruits. After all, he's been there.

Sanders was a member of Nebraska's 1985 recruiting class, among the most highly rated nationally during Tom Osborne's 25 years as

head coach. At the time, Sanders recalled recently, he saw a magazine article, in Sports Illustrated maybe, with a picture of a college football team and the notation: "Remember, at some point everybody here was a high school superstar."

"They all come in here believing they're high school superstars, so they're going to have that kind of ego," Sanders said. "But I think they will take the attitude of older guys."

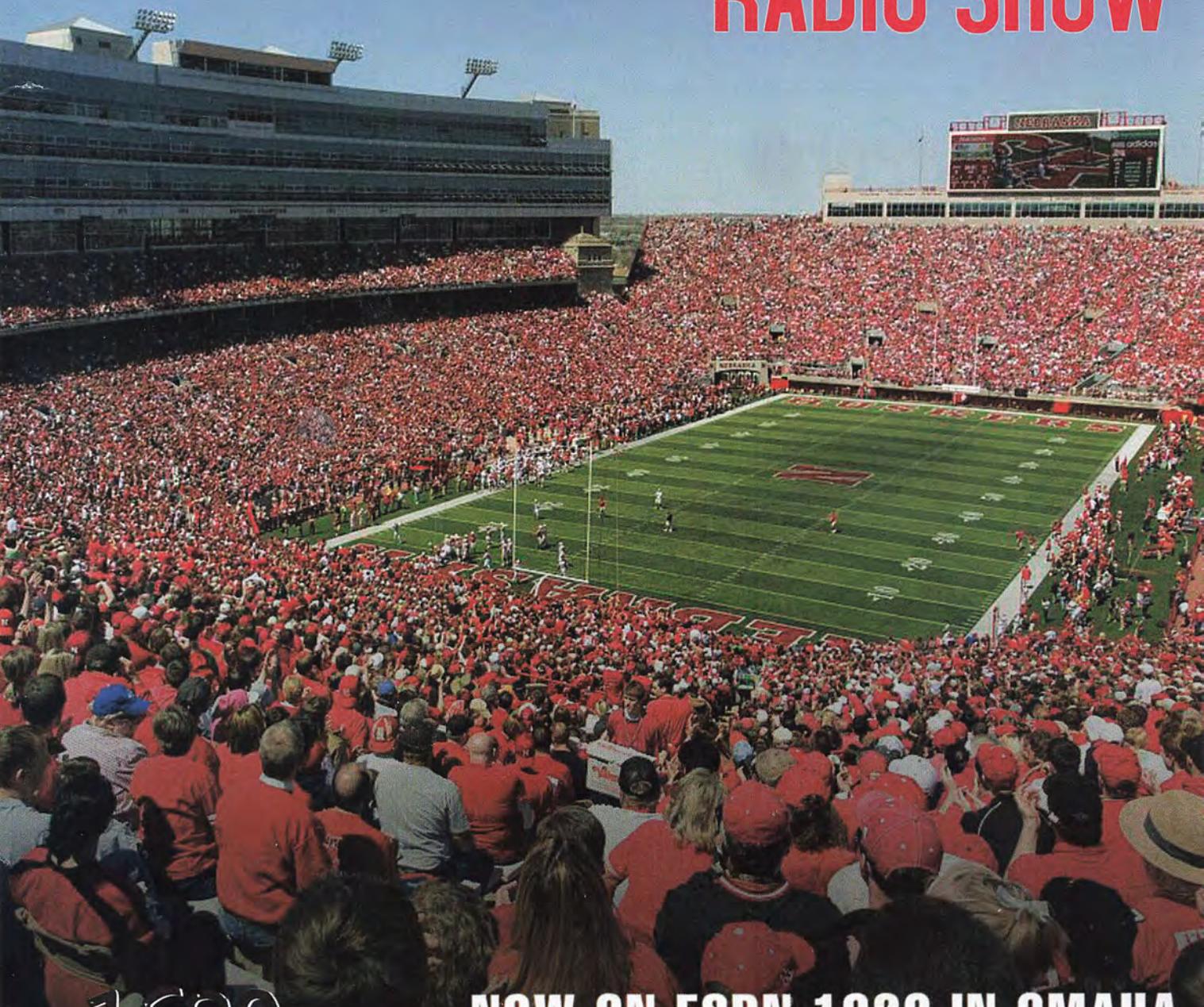
He had a high school

superstar's ego when he arrived at Nebraska. "No question I did," said Sanders. "And I got brought back to life really quick, too."

Seems as though in practice he tried to tackle I-back Doug DuBose, an All-America candidate, "coming around the corner," he said.

DuBose gave him a forearm "right in my helmet, and my nose was bloody," Sanders said. "I thought, 'OK, maybe I'm not as good as I thought I was.' That happens to everybody."

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N

Aurora



Joe Broekemeier has yet to see game action. But he came close in the Idaho game.

The senior from Aurora is a back-up on the punt return team, and when Rickey Thenarse was injured during the third quarter, he was next in line. The problem was, Idaho never punted again.

"It just never worked out," said Broekemeier.

He was disappointed, but hardly discouraged. You won't find a more up-beat player despite the fact his only action as a Husker has been in the Red-White Spring Game.

"I love what I'm doing, and my teammates and coaches I love 'em. They're the best I've been around," Broekemeier said. "I just like to come out and have fun every day. I mean, it's not going to do me any good to not be happy every day because then I'd just waste days, in my opinion."

Broekemeier's story is as unlikely as his attitude. He was recruited by Nebraska for baseball and pitched in eight games in 2009, after redshirting and sitting out another season because of back problems. But then shoulder surgery ended what had been a promising baseball career.

So Broekemeier decided to give football a try, as a quarterback, even though he hadn't played in a football game since the state playoffs when he was a high school freshman.

Obviously, selling the coaches on that idea was difficult. "I don't know if it was enough of me bugging them or what," said Broekemeier, who was allowed to try out. "I got lucky, I guess."

Next, he bugged them about moving to wide receiver, the position at which he's listed now. His first week at wide receiver, he earned scout-team-player-of-the-week recognition. "Never once have I regretted switching over (from baseball), not even for 1 second," he said.

"I've been real happy with my decision."

AURORA, NE

County: Hamilton

Population: 4,196 (2009)

Distance from Lincoln: 70 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

- Aurora also is represented on this year's team by freshman offensive lineman Andrew Rodriguez.
- Jim Wanek was a Husker co-captain as a senior in 1990.
- Harold E. "Doc" Edgerton, who invented the stroboscopic light while a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of technology, grew up in Aurora and earned a B.S. degree in electrical engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Clarence Mitchell, a major league pitcher and first baseman from 1911 to 1932, was born in Franklin, Neb., but made his home in Aurora following his professional career. He hit into an unassisted triple play in the 1920 World Series and was among National League eight pitchers allowed to continue using a spitball after it was outlawed, also in 1920. Aurora's Clarence Mitchell Field is named in his honor.

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Tom Haase, QB (1990-91)

Pat Shaw, LB (1986)

Jim Wanek, OG (1988-89-90)



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Michigan State Spartans

Spartans boast proud history, including six national titles and 20 bowl appearances | TERRY DOUGLASS



MICHIGAN STATE is yet another Big Ten Conference football program that was once among the nation's elite, but hasn't been able to recapture its glory years.

The Spartans have won or shared six national championships, winning in 1951, 1952, 1955, 1957, 1965 and 1966. Michigan State also owns six Big Ten titles, capturing the conference crown in 1953, 1965, 1966, 1978, 1987 and 1990.

Including last year's loss to Texas Tech, Michigan State has made 20 bowl appearances, recording a 7-13 post-season record. The Spartans have struggled in their most recent bowl games, losing four

straight and eight of their last 10.

Nebraska has played a part in Michigan State's bowl woes, beating the Spartans 17-3 in the 2003 Alamo Bowl. The Huskers lead the Spartans 5-0 in the all-time series between the schools, beating them in 1914, 1920, 1995, 1996 and 2003 and outscoring them by a combined 181-34.

While Nebraska fans may refer to the Huskers' 1971 contest against Oklahoma as "The Game of the Century," Spartan faithful have the same label for the 1966 MSU-Notre Dame match-up that ended in a controversial 10-10 tie, eventually resulting in a shared national championship.

DON'T MISS

Michigan State University is located in East Lansing, Mich., which is a 725-mile drive from Lincoln. The nearest major airport is Detroit, which is 100 miles to the southwest on Interstate 96.

The Spartans play their home games in Spartan Stadium, which is located in the center of the campus. The listed capacity is 75,005 for the stadium, which features a grass playing surface, but the stadium frequently holds more than 80,000 spectators.

The Michigan State student section is known as The Corner Blitz, which was formed in 2000. East Lansing has a population of approximately 46,000 and is directly east of the Michigan state capital of Lansing.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Mark Dantonio is the 24th head coach in Michigan State history, compiling a 24-17

record in his first three full seasons with the Spartans. He was previously head coach at Cincinnati (2004-06) and was the defensive coordinator for Ohio State's 2002 national championship team. He suffered a mild heart attack following the Notre Dame game in September.

NAMES TO KNOW

DUFFY DAUGHERTY: The head coach at Michigan State from 1954-72, Daugherty had a career record of 109-69-5 and guided the Spartans to two national titles. Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984. He was instrumental in Michigan State's hiring of Bob Devaney as a Spartan assistant, Devaney's first coaching at the collegiate level. Devaney and Daugherty were long-time friends.

CHARLES "BUBBA" SMITH: An All-America defensive lineman in 1965-1966, Smith was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1988. He played nine years in the NFL and later became a TV and film actor.

PERCY SNOW: One of only two players in college football history to win both the Butkus Award and the Lombardi Award. The All-America Spartans linebacker was a first-round draft choice by the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

LORENZO WHITE: The first Big Ten running back to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season in 1985. Went on to play eight NFL seasons, including a Pro-Bowl appearance in 1992 for Houston.

DON COLEMAN: The first African-American All-American for Michigan State in 1951, the lineman was also the first Spartan to have his jersey retired by the school. Elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1975.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

History shows importance of Big 12 openers

RULE NO. 1 in the coaches' handbook regarding Big 12 Conference openers is impossible to dispute. It's true that result counts no more for or against their team as the seven contests that follow it.

But if you want to wind up in the Big 12 championship, well, this is where winning your opener is practically a requirement.

In the first 14 years of the league, 24 of the 28 division champions started out with a victory. The exceptions were Oklahoma's 2007 and 2006 teams, Colorado in 2004 and Kansas State in 2003. Both of those Sooner teams and the Wildcats won Big 12 championships, too.

K-State's title represented an example of a club beating especially long odds, as the Wildcats started out 0-2 and, for winning the North Division, they advanced to play top-ranked Oklahoma. What they accomplished by knocking off the Sooners was a fairytale come to life.

Usually, though, the plot to a football team's season-long story doesn't have such a dramatic ending. Teams that get off to slow starts usually succumb to a variety of circumstances — talent, or lack thereof, normally being the No. 1 culprit.

However, the squads that start off in better control of their fate seem to capture benefits that reach far beyond

sheer ability.

Winning early affects attitude and confidence. It affects how you look at the teammate lined up next to you.

It affects how you look at yourself, maybe makes it easier to play through an injury.

Teams that build early momentum stand to become better than their individual parts, in large part because of a developed belief that things are going to work out.

Look at the Kansas City Chiefs, a team nobody picked to be a serious challenger in the AFC West Division. After the first four weeks of the season, they were the NFL's lone unbeaten.

Or, using an example of a team expected to accomplish big things, how about Alabama? Earlier this season, the Crimson Tide trailed Arkansas by 10 points at halftime. Their reaction was to act and play like they'd been through tough times before, and they proceeded to methodically stick to a plan that left them with another win.

All Nebraska needs as a reminder is what transpired last season. In their league opener, the Huskers trailed Missouri 12-0 entering the fourth quarter. Fifteen minutes later, they were 27-12 victors.

"I knew we could do it," defensive tackle Jared Crick recalled of that rainy night in Columbia, Mo. "Definitely, we weren't going to let them score again,

because we had made our adjustments the first three quarters. There was that thought 'We're a lot better than these guys,' but all we needed was for our offense to find a way to get going. And they did."

Imagine if that outcome had been different? If everything else remains the same, Missouri finished 5-3 in the Big 12 and plays in the championship based on having beaten what would have been 5-3 Nebraska.

Or, maybe losing that game is so hard on the Huskers that they never recover? Remember, they did follow up by losing the next week to Texas Tech.

Starting "0-2 would have been bad," said cornerback Prince Amukamara.

Never mind that Nebraska also lost its third league game the next week to Iowa State.

Hypothetical circumstances aside, there's simply no substitute for starting conference play on fire.

"It's a huge tone-setter," Amukamara said.

Understandably, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini was taking a common-sense approach to last week's Big 12 opener at Kansas State.

"If we win it, we haven't won anything," he said.

But then Pelini brought up the other option.

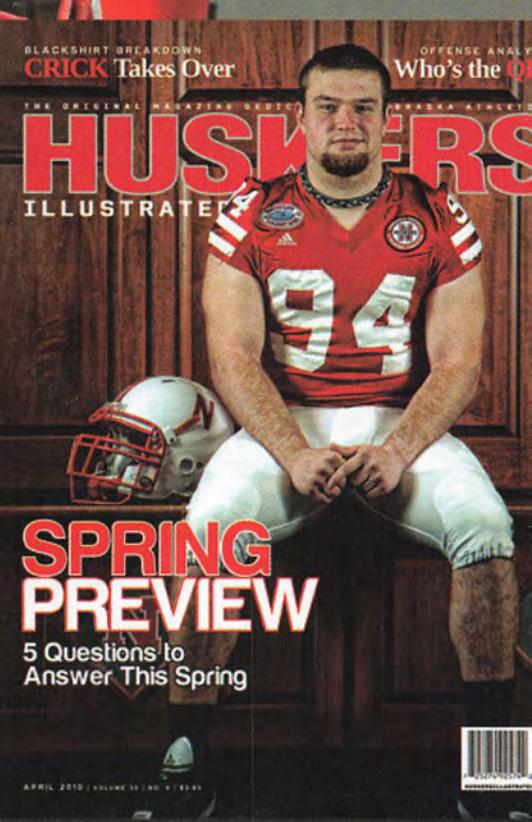
"If we lose it -- I don't want to talk about that." **N**

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MOORE CONFIDENCE

After taking a third hard hit that day, **Blake Lawrence** thought "You go tell the trainers today's your **last day of practice**, today's your **last day of football**. Today's the last day your wear pads, you wear a helmet. Today's the last day you do anything."

by Brian Rosenthal



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LAKEWOOD, COLO., OFFENSIVE TACKLE

FIVE QUESTIONS

Jeremiah Sirles

Offensive Line & the Theatre

JEREMIAH SIRLES

**WAS A JUNIOR
AT BEAR CREEK
HIGH SCHOOL IN
LAKEWOOD, COLO.,
WHEN HE TORE HIS
ACL** toward the end of football season. That meant no basketball for the multi-sport athlete.

The theatre teacher – the daughter of the head coach of Lakewood's rival – was in her first year of directing Lakewood's program and had heard from Sirles' middle school choir teacher that Sirles could sing. She told Sirles he should audition for the musical.

"At first, I was like, 'No way, not going

to happen,'" Sirles said. "But she would not leave me alone. So I said, 'Fine, whatever, I'll try out.'"

He was surprised when he landed a spot in the chorus for Guys and Dolls.

"It ended up becoming one of the best experiences of my life," Sirles said. "It opens your eyes to

people around you. You see people at school and you think, 'Wow, nerd,' and then you become one of them. I ended up spending a lot more time with those guys at the end of the year than I did my basketball buddies."

His senior year, Sirles did theatre in addition to basketball.

He played Diesel in West Side Story.

"My teacher called me the year after I graduated and told me she had over 25 football players audition for the musical," Sirles said. "I started something, and she was really proud of me for it."



1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED Did your friends give you a hard time for doing theatre?

JEREMIAH SIRLES Ridiculous. I still get razzed for it. I just say, 'Hey, I got to do it and you didn't.' I love it. Builds my character even more.

2

HI Who's your favorite actor?

SIRLES Tom Hanks. Old but definitely one of my favorites. Him and Nicholas Cage. A couple of my favorites.

3

HI What movie line do you like to recite the most?

SIRLES Anything from Step Brothers. That was one of my favorite movies. Any line from that would do it for me.



4

HI Do you ever get grief from your family for not going to Colorado?

SIRLES Immediate family? No. Cousins? Yes. It's not as much grief as just razzing. They're all 100-percent supportive of me. They're coming to the CU game – not going to wear red, but they're coming. They'll have a black jersey with a red 71 on it.

5

HI What Big Ten stadium are you looking forward to playing in the most?

SIRLES When I was younger, I was a huge Michigan fan. I wanted to play for Michigan. Going to play in the Big House will be really fun for me.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Scoring Explosion

ALREADY LEADING 17-3 at halftime, Nebraska displayed quick-strike scoring capability to put away Kansas State.

The Cornhuskers needed a total of just 116 seconds of possession time to produce three third-quarter touchdown drives on the way to a 48-13 road victory over the Wildcats.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez got Nebraska's second half off to a quick start. The speedster broke loose on a quarterback draw up the middle for an 80-yard TD run on a third-and-10 play, putting the Huskers ahead 24-3 just 58 seconds after intermission.

"It was just a QB draw," Martinez said of his second 80-yard scoring run of the season. "The first time I ran it, I got stuffed. I made the wrong read and then we came back after halftime, talked about it and we just came back and ran it again and I made the correct reads."

On the Huskers' next possession, it was Roy Helu Jr. who hit the Wildcats with a sudden score. The Nebraska senior I-back took a handoff on the drive's opening play and raced 68 yards for a 31-3 NU lead with 11:22 left in

the third quarter.

Nebraska's final drive of the third quarter required just two plays. The Huskers snuck tight end Kyler Reed out over the deep middle and, despite Martinez's pass being under-thrown, Reed was able to make the catch and outrun the Wildcat secondary to the end zone for a 79-yard TD pass and it was 38-6 with 52 seconds left in the third.

"It was just a play-action pass that I threw deep to Kyler Reed and he made a great catch and outran the safety," Martinez said. "I was just trying to get the ball to him because I saw that he beat the safety so bad."

Nebraska finished with 587 total yards, including 451 yards on the ground. The Huskers averaged 10.7 yards per rush against the Wildcats, which was surprising to Helu.

"They didn't give up big plays, from what I was watching (on film)," Helu said. "They play really tight, tough defense. Executing with the unit that we have ... I guess that we just broke some stuff." **N**

by Terry Douglass

GameNotes



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

IN THE CONVERSATION

Following a record-setting performance by Nebraska's Taylor Martinez in the Cornhuskers' 48-13 road victory at Kansas State, Michigan's Denard Robinson might not be the only first-year starting quarterback in the Heisman Trophy conversation.

Martinez finished with 241 yards and four touchdowns rushing on 15 carries, setting a single-game rushing record for Nebraska quarterbacks. The 6-foot-1, 205-pounder from Corona, Calif., also completed 5-of-7 pass attempts for 128 yards, giving him a single-game program freshman record 369 yards of total offense.

"It's a real honor to be able to break these kinds of records," Martinez said.

Playing in a nationally televised ESPN contest, Martinez ripped off scoring runs of 14, 35, 80 and 41 yards. With 737 yards rushing and 12 rushing TDs on the season, it appears Martinez might just be an early Heisman contender.

"He made some mistakes, but he did a lot of good things, obviously," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said of Martinez. "He ran for a lot of yards and he's an explosive player and he creates some problems for defenses."

SETTING THE STAGE

Nebraska improved to 5-0 to start the season for the first time since 2003 and the lopsided win at Kansas State seemingly gives the Huskers plenty of momentum heading into their Oct. 16

home game against Big 12 Conference rival Texas.

"Our goal is always to win them all and we know that it's a heck of a football team that's coming into Lincoln," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "It just showed that we've taken care of business up to this point, but we've got to keep getting better."

Nebraska linebacker Alonzo Whaley said he hopes the win over Kansas State was the first of many statement games for the Huskers.

"It's a pretty big win," Whaley said. "Like Coach Bo said, we'll be targeted in the Big 12, knowing that we're leaving (for the Big Ten)."

"Coach Pelini always said, 'Nebraska's back,' so it's just proving it every week."

Game Notes



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Blackshirts challenged

After allowing running backs from Western Kentucky and South Dakota State to top the 100-yard mark in rushing and entering the Kansas State game ranked No. 53 nationally in rushing defense, Nebraska figured to have its hands full against standout Wildcat running back Daniel Thomas.

However, Thomas was limited to 63 yards rushing -- 94 below his season average -- by

the Blackshirts.

"I challenged them," Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. "I said, 'You guys have been called out, and I want you to respond. I want you to play a physical brand of football tonight.'

"We use our safeties and our DBs in the run so much, that I was talking to 11 guys."

Linebacker Alonzo Whaley said Nebraska's defense was

"pretty tired" of hearing about its shortcomings in stopping the run.

"That was kind of a punch in the face, but it was also a challenge for us," Whaley said, noting that he wasn't surprised the Blackshirts were able to contain Thomas. "That's our expectation. It doesn't really feel big because we knew we could do it by going out and executing our game (plan)."

A BENEFICIAL BYE

After being held to season lows in rushing (205 yards) and total offense (345) in a surprisingly close 17-3 home win over FCS South Dakota State on Sept. 25, Nebraska's offense bounced back strong against Kansas State. The Huskers gained 587 total yards, including 451 yards rushing, marking their first 400-yard rushing game since 2007 against Nevada.

"I think the bye

week came at a good time," Nebraska offensive line coach Barney Cotton said. "We did a lot of good-on-good work in that previous week. I think that helped us get ready for the Big 12 season."

Nebraska guard Keith Williams said the Huskers wanted to quickly establish

a dominant rushing attack against KSU.

"We wanted to come out and play physical," Williams said. "We're going to come out, be physical and run right at you."



UNUSED OFFENSE

One aspect of Nebraska's offensive game plan that didn't get a lot of use against Kansas State was the passing game. Huskers' quarterback Taylor Martinez attempted just seven passes, but did complete five of them for 128 yards, including a 79-TD pass to tight end Kyler Reed.

"We know he can throw the football," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said of Martinez. "Everyone's going to play us a little bit different and everybody is going to have a little bit different game plan and we wanted to stay balanced."

"I thought we had a really good plan throwing the football coming in, but it didn't really play out that we really needed to do that. What we did was working."

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska won its sixth consecutive road game, marking the longest road winning streak for the Huskers since winning 10 straight road games from 1996-1998. NU has also won six straight road games in the Big 12 Conference.

► Huskers' linebacker Lavonte David had 16 tackles against Kansas State, marking his third double-figure tackle game of the season. David had 19 tackles in Nebraska's win over South Dakota and leads the team with 60 tackles this season.

► Place-kicker Alex Henery has made 12 consecutive field-goal attempts and his 54 career field goals for Nebraska are just three shy of the program record of 57 held by Kris Brown (1995-98).



RICKY HENRY IS A ONE-MAN WRECKING CREW AGAINST THE KANSAS STATE DEFENSIVE LINE. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Our members always have home field advantage.



48

NEBRASKA

13

KANSAS STATE

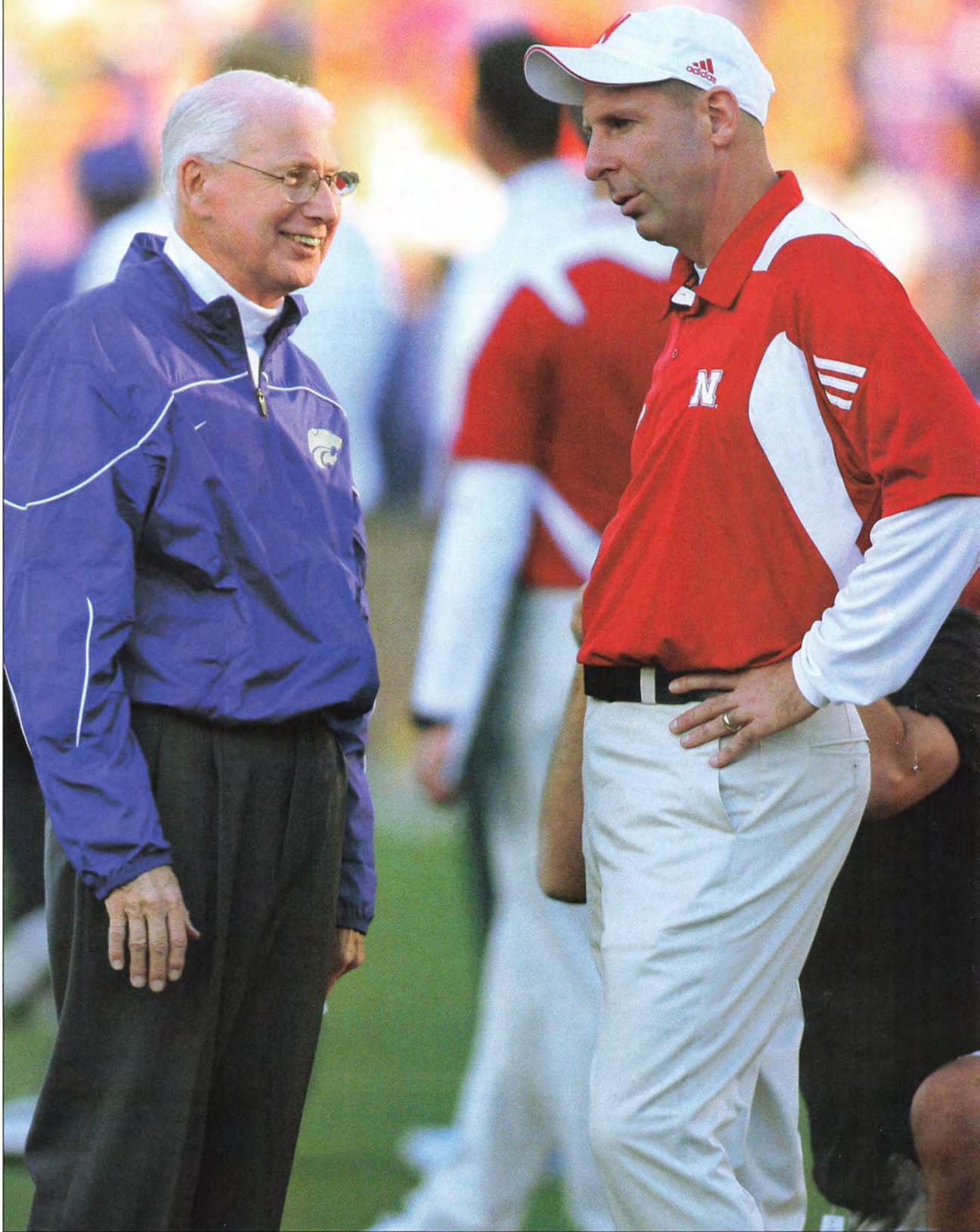


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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Prince Amukamara intercepts a pass. The play would be called back on a pass interference penalty. *Photo by Scott Bruhn* 2) Kansas State head coach Bill Snyder and Nebraska head coach visit before the start of the game. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 3) Defensive Coordinator Carl Pelini meets with the defense during the game. *Photo by Scott Bruhn* 4) Eric Hagg intercepts a pass to end the first half. *Photo by Aaron Babcock*



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

LAVONTE DAVID

On a night when the offense stole the show with big plays, the defense deserved some credit, too, particularly considering its ability to deal with the run has been questioned. So take your pick, linebacker Lavonte David or safety Dejon Gomes. Early in the week, coach Bo Pelini said that loading the box wasn't the only way to stop the run. And the Huskers showed how, opening the game with only one linebacker, David, and using two only on occasion. Alonzo Whaley was the second. In any case, David was credited with 16 tackles, including 10 unassisted, and a sack. And Gomes was involved in 12 tackles, seven of them unassisted. He also forced a fumble.

RUSHING

Big plays in the running game, anyone? The Huskers rushed for 451 yards and averaged 10.7 yards per carry. Yes, averaged, a reflection of some long touchdown runs.

A+

PASSING

Taylor Martinez threw only seven passes, five of them complete, including a 79-yarder to Kyler Reed for a touchdown. What more can you ask?

A

RUSHING DEFENSE

Kansas State gained 73 of its 180 rushing yards in the fourth quarter, against the reserves. And more to the point, Nebraska limited Daniel Thomas to an average of 2.9 yards per carry.

A

PASSING DEFENSE

We're splitting hairs here. Kansas State's completion percentage was decent. However, the Wildcats weren't particularly productive. This probably could have been an A.

B+

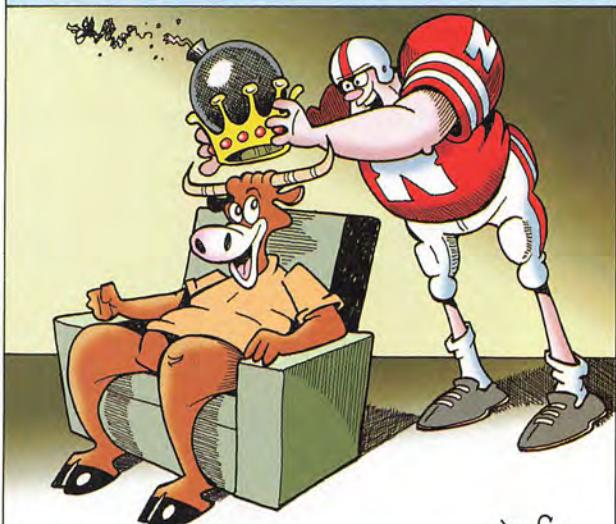
KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Kansas State's William Powell returned six kickoffs for 186 yards, definitely not good coverage. On the plus side, Alex Henery averaged 49.5 yards on two punts and was two-for-two on field goals. So he salvaged the grade.

B-

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NEBRASKA vs. TEXAS



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 **QUICK
PICKS**



(Season, Last Week) (29-11, 5-3)

(33-7, 6-2)

(35-5, 6-2)

(32-8, 5-3)

(31-9, 6-2)

(34-6, 6-2)

Texas at Nebraska	NU 21-20	NU 28-24	NU 21-17	NU 31-20	NU 23-20	NU 24-13
Kansas State at Kansas	KSU 17-6	KSU 27-14	KSU 24-10	KSU 35-17	KSU 27-10	KU 27-24
Arkansas at Auburn	ARK 28-24	AUB 21-20	AUB 14-10	ARK 27-20	AUB 41-31	ARK 23-21
Iowa at Michigan	IOWA 20-14	IOWA 17-15	MICH 27-24	MICH 31-28	IOWA 45-37	IOWA 34-31
Missouri at Texas A&M	MU 24-20	A&M 35-31	A&M 38-35	A&M 35-31	A&M 41-34	A&M 37-34
Oklahoma State at Texas Tech	OSU 35-25	OSU 49-42	TT 33-27	OSU 49-28	TT 37-33	OSU 24-17
Iowa State at Oklahoma	OU 42-17	OU 38-20	OU 44-17	OU 56-17	OU 48-20	OU 42-17
Ohio State at Wisconsin	OSU 28-14	OSU 21-17	OSU 17-13	OSU 24-14	OSU 27-20	OSU 24-23

GameStats

SCORING

Oct. 7, 2010
Snyder Stadium • Manhattan, Kan.
Attendance: 51,015

	1	2	3	4	F
NEBRASKA	7	10	21	10	48
KANSAS STATE	0	3	3	7	13

First Quarter
Martinez, Taylor 14 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 06:22
Drive: 8 plays 76 yd 3:28

Second Quarter
Cherry, Josh 46 yd field goal - 08:47
Drive: 7 plays 23 yd 3:38

NU Martinez, Taylor 35 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 03:54
Drive: 8 plays 87 yd 4:53

NU Henery, Alex 39 yd field goal - 00:26
Drive: 5 plays 62 yd 1:41

Third Quarter
Martinez, Taylor 80 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 14:02
Drive: 3 plays 80 yd 0:58

NU Helu Jr., Roy 68 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 11:22
Drive: 1 play 68 yd 0:10

KSU Cherry, Josh 48 yd field goal - 01:48
Drive: 7 play 27 yd 3:45

NU Reed, Kyler 79 yd pass from Martinez, Taylor (Henery, Alex kick) - 01:00
Drive: 2 plays 80 yd 0:48

Fourth Quarter
Martinez, Taylor 41 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 12:20
Drive: 7 plays 76 yd 2:22

NU Harper, Chris 2 yd pass from Coffman, Carson (Cherry, Josh kick) - 09:57
Drive: 6 plays 48 yd 2:23

NU Henery, Alex 40 yd field goal - 04:30
Drive: 12 plays 51 yd 5:27

TEAM STATS

	NU	KSU
Total First Downs	21	20
Rushing	16	8
Passing	4	10
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	42	44
Yards Gained Rushing	469	192
Yards Lost Rushing	18	12
Net Yards Rushing	451	180
Net Yards Passing	136	135
Passes Attempted	10	27
Passes Completed	6	19
Had Intercepted	0	1
Percent Completion	60.0%	70.3%
Yards per Attempt	13.6	5.0
Yards per Completion	22.7	7.1
Total Offensive Plays	52	71
Total Net Yards	587	315
Avg. Gain Per Play	11.3	4.4
Fumbles: No-Lost	2-0	3-0
Penalties: No-Yards	6-48	4-30
Punts: No-Yards	2-99	5-182
Avg. Per Punt	49.5	36.4
Avg. Net Punt	43.0	36.4
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-13
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	3-48	6-186
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	25:29	34:31
Third-Down Conversions	4-9	8-18
Percentage	44.4%	44.4%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	1-2
Percentage	0.0%	50.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-9	1-9

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	Avg	TD	LG
Martinez	15	259	18	241	16.1	4	80
Helu Jr.	8	110	0	110	13.8	1	68
Burkhead	11	57	0	57	5.2	0	13
Green	4	28	0	28	7.0	0	22
Jones	3	10	0	10	3.3	0	5
Robinson	1	5	0	5	5.0	0	5
TOTAL	42	469	18	451	10.7	5	80

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	7	5	71.4	0	128	1	79
Green	3	1	33.3	0	8	0	8
TOTAL	10	6	60.0	0	136	1	79

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
McNeill	2	25	0	24
Reed	1	79	1	79
Paul	1	17	0	17
Henry	1	8	0	8
Cotton	1	7	0	7
TOTAL	6	136	1	79

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	3	48	0	20

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Henery	2	99	51	0	0	1	2

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	2	2	40	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
David	10	6	16	2-9	1-7	0	0	0
Gomes	7	5	12	1-0	0-0	0	1	0
Meredith	3	4	7	2-2	0-5	0	0	0
Amukamara	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Steinkuler	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	0	4	4	1-1	.5-1	0	0	0
West	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blatchford	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarre	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Osborne	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grove	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Evans	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Randle	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stoddard	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Whaley	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Henery	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McNeill	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mendoza	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPT. RET.	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Hagg	1	0	0	0

KANSAS STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	Avg	TD	LG
Thomas	22	63	0	63	2.9	0	13
Coffman	7	54	9	45	6.4	0	36
Klein	6	34	1	33	5.5	0	22
Lamur	3	20	0	20	6.7	0	8
Powell	3	10	0	10	3.3	0	6
Thompson	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8
Wilson	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
TOTAL	44	192	12	180	4.1	0	36

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Coffman	22	14	63.6	1	91	1	17
Lamur	3	3	100.0	0	28	0	17
Klein	2	2	100.0	0	16	0	11
TOTAL	27	19	70.4	1	135	1	17

PUHT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Thompson	1	13	0	13

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Powell	6	186	0	52

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Doerr	5	364	47	0	0	0	3

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Cherry	2	2	48	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Garrett	9	1	10	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
Hrebec	4	6	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Slaughter	2	4	6	1-9	1-9	0	0	0
Hartman	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Harrison	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sweeney	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Guidry	0	4	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brown	1	2	3	1-4	0-0	1	0	0
Lamur	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Terrell	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Felder	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Zimmerman	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Childs	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kibble	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Butler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Harold	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Melton	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0



Texas Longhorns

Texas comes to Lincoln looking to avoid third straight loss for first time in over 10 seasons. **I JERRY TRICKIE**

The Longhorns have dropped their last two contests by a combined 62-32 margin. UT has not lost three straight since

1999, when it dropped the final three contests of the year, including falling to Nebraska in the Big 12 Championship game.

Defined by its defense this fall, UT paced the league in total defense through Oct. 2, allowing just 254.2 ypg.



Senior defensive end Eddie Jones ranked third in the Big 12 in sacks and fourth in tackles for loss heading into a bye week before facing the Cornhuskers. Behind Jones, the Longhorns were third in the conference in rushing defense, allowing just 104 yards per game on the ground.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Texas coach

Mack Brown is the

Big 12 Conference's

winningest active coach and owns streaks of 20 consecutive winning seasons and 18 straight bowl appearances, both the longest in the nation. He owns a 131-29 record with UT and 217-103-1 mark in 26 years overall.

KNOW YOUR FOE



Kennan Robinson,

Jr., LB: The leading

Longhorn tackler with 50 stops, Robinson

had 19 tackles,

including 10 unassisted, against Oklahoma on Oct. 2.



Garret Gilbert, So.,

QB: Gilbert paces the

Texas offense, ranking

seventh in the league

in passing (230.2 ypg)

and eighth in total offense (233.0

ypg).



Emmanuel Acho, Jr.,

LB: Acho is second

on the team in tackles

with 40, including 17

with 4.5 TFL and a

sack against Oklahoma.

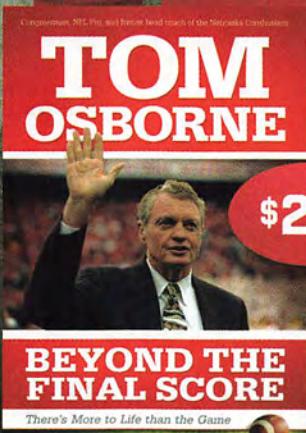
PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS SPORTS INFORMATION

2010 SCHEDULE

9/04	vs. Rice, W, 34-17
9/11	Wyoming, W, 34-7
9/18	at Texas Tech, W, 24-14
9/25	UCLA, L, 12-34
10/02	vs. Oklahoma, L, 20-28
10/16	at Nebraska, 2:30 p.m.
10/23	Iowa State
10/30	Baylor
11/06	at Kansas State
11/13	Oklahoma State
11/20	Florida Atlantic
11/25	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.

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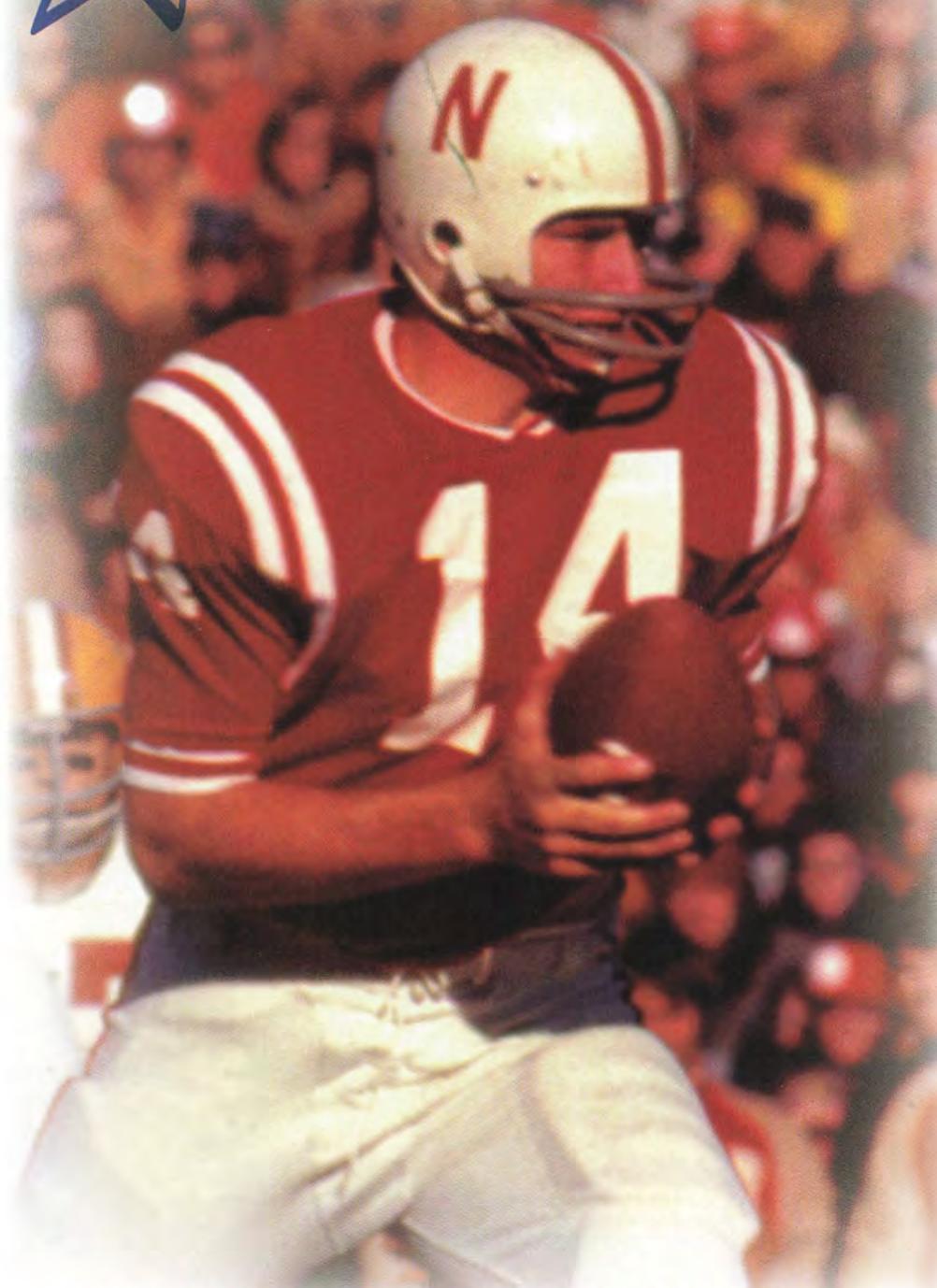
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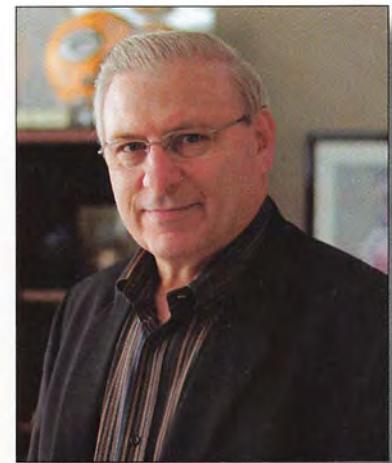
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CATCHING UP WITH

Bob Pickens

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL RENAISSANCE MAN INTRIGUING

IT'S TRIVIA TIME, so close your eyes and put your thinking cap on.

- Who's the only all-conference player in NU football history to play one season for the Huskers?
- Who's the only Nebraska football player ever to compete on a U.S. Olympic wrestling team?
- And who's a Husker from the 1960s that still has a great impact on scholar athletes?

Give up?

Did you even consider Bob Pickens as the answer to the first question, let alone the second and third?

Well, now you know. One of the Huskers' most memorable but least-known world-class student-athletes is the answer to all three trivia questions.

At 68, Pickens may not ring a bell with countless fans, but the truth is, he's so valuable and so well-rounded, he's running as fast now as he ever did en route to first-team All-Big Eight Conference honors as an offensive tackle in 1966 – the only year he ever played for the Huskers.

In Lincoln last month for his formal

induction into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame, Pickens swooped in to see his favorite team and two of his closest friends, Langston Coleman and Charlie Greene. After receiving one of his highest honors, he and his wife both headed to Washington D.C., where they had business commitments – Bob as an educational speaker for the National Collegiate Scholarship Association and his wife, Judith, as a senior vice president of Boys and Girls Club Worldwide.

Pickens is a speaker and an ambassador, teaching youth all over the country how to keep their grades up and know where they're going. He encourages them to put together well-defined individual and team goals, academic resumes in a digital format and making them aware of all the opportunities available not only at Division I schools, but Division II and III as well.

Pickens always identified with Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne

because he focuses almost all of his efforts on education and character and has a unique ability to communicate how pivotal character is to stay on top both athletically and academically.

In 1964, Pickens was a member of the U.S. Olympic Greco-Roman Wrestling Team in Tokyo. Because he transferred from Wisconsin, he had to sit out the 1965 season before helping the 1966 Huskers lead the Big Eight in total offense and rank second nationally in scoring.

Pickens, a Chicago native who played three years for the Bears, lets no grass grow beneath his feet. "I was gratified and humbled becoming a member of the Nebraska football Hall of Fame," he said. "But I was happiest to see Trey

"IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT EVEN TODAY'S NEBRASKA PLAYERS UNDERSTAND THAT FOOTBALL IS THE TREAT AND EDUCATION IS THE PRIVILEGE. AND I HOPE THAT NEVER CHANGES."

(Coleman) and Charlie. Nebraska taught all three of us that football was the vehicle and education was the goal. It's nice to know that even today's Nebraska players understand that football is the treat and education is the privilege. And I hope that never changes."

by Randy York

INTHE RedZone

PHOTO BY RICHARD VOGES



Legends and their numbers

That sophomore Michael Booker wore a No. 20 jersey at the Nebraska football team's media day in early August of 1994 was newsworthy. Only one player had worn 20 since Johnny Rodgers finished his Cornhusker career in 1972, and that player was his son Terry, a freshman in 1986.

Terry Rodgers wore the number

with his father's permission. The No. 20 had been retired after Johnny Rodgers won the Heisman Trophy. It was among six jersey numbers that had been retired by 1994, never to be worn again at Nebraska. The others were 60 (Tom Novak), 79 (Rich Glover), 50 (Dave Rimington), 30 (Mike Rozier) and 71 (Dean Steinkuhler).

After Terry Rodgers finished an injury-plagued career, 20 went back into retirement. But there was Booker, a cornerback listed in the 1994 media guide as No. 5, wearing 20.

"We're just getting short enough of numbers that we're going to have to let people wear those," coach Tom Osborne said. "The duplicated numbers were confusing."

The NCAA allows jersey numbers from 1 to 99, and schools typically have more than 99 players.

All of the numbers except 60 are back in circulation. Novak's number was retired by the Letterman's Club. Plus, Bob Brown's No. 64 has been permanently retired.

Now, players who win major national awards are honored by the retiring of their jerseys.

Ndamukong Suh's No. 93 jersey was retired following last season, but another Husker could wear 93, even though no one on the current roster is. No one is wearing 20, either, for that matter.

The need for duplicate numbers remains, of course. There were 37 duplicate numbers for the last home game against South Dakota State. When duplicates are assigned, one goes to an offensive player and one to a defensive player to reduce the likelihood both would inadvertently be on the field at the same time. Also, players who might be redshirted often are assigned duplicate numbers.

special numbers

Many, if not most, players have a jersey-number preference. Often, they want the number they wore in high school. And usually they can be accommodated, with older players getting first choice.

Junior Ryan Hill is among the exceptions. "I just kind of came in and got a number. A number's a number. It's more just coming out here and trying your hardest," he said.

"You're an individual not a number. That's how I look at it."

Hill wore a No. 80 jersey until a week or so into fall camp, when he switched to No. 33, a reflection of his move from tight end to fullback – though many of the responsibilities remain the same.

"It's different. But change is fun," he said.

Now, freshman wide receiver Kenny Bell is the offensive player with No. 80.

Hill wore a No. 1 jersey in youth football and a No. 13 jersey at Arvada, Colo., West Hill School, "so I've never really had a certain number," he said.



RETired JERSEY NUMBERS

60	Tom Novak
64	Bob Brown



RETired JERSEYS

7	Eric Crouch
15	Tommie Frazier
20	Johnny Rodgers
30	Mike Rozier
34	Trev Alberts
50	Dave Rimington
54	Dominic Raiola
67	Aaron Taylor
71	Dean Steinkuhler
72	Zach Wiegert
75	Larry Jacobson
75	Will Shields
79	Rich Glover
93	Ndamukong Suh
98	Grant Wistrom

Huskers host first two visitors

Mordi-Price and Leonard rate trips as positive experience after visiting Lincoln **I SEAN STEVENS**



A.C. LEONARD

Sept. 25 provided Nebraska's first official visitors of the season as offensive lineman Givens Mordi-Price (6-4, 274) of Houston, Texas, and tight end A.C. Leonard (6-2, 232) of Jacksonville, Fla., were in attendance.

Although committed to Rice, Price made the trip north.

"It was a good trip because it was my first time traveling up north," he said. "That was my first game in a big stadium like that and plus I got to meet a lot of people."

Price, who will turn 16-years-old on Oct. 3, after skipping both fourth and seventh grades, traveled with his mother.

"She thinks it's nice, and she really likes

the way they have the academic center set up," Price said. "She likes that Coach (Bo) Pelini believes in education first before anything."

Leonard, Rivals.com's No. 4-ranked tight end, is committed to Florida but taking additional visits. Pelini also has impressed Leonard.

"He's a great guy," Leonard said. "He's basically keeping it real with you and telling you all the pros and cons of it. He just said it would be great to have me up there and it would be a great place for me."

The trip made a positive impact on Leonard.

"I liked what I saw. So I'm definitely going to look at them. I'm

just making sure (of his Florida commitment). I'm actually looking, so I'm really going to look at Nebraska," he said.

UCONN COMMIT CHANGES PLANS

Weston, Mass. receiver Tariq Allen (6-3, 185) committed to Connecticut this past summer after camping in Lincoln. He recently renounced his commitment and plans to officially visit NU. Allen is also looking at Wisconsin and Penn State, but Nebraska leads.

CALIFORNIA RECEIVER

Another receiver high on Nebraska's radar is Patrick Onwuasor (6-2, 190) of Inglewood, Calif. Onwuasor has booked his official visit for Nebraska's game with Texas on Oct. 16. He will also visit Arizona and lists offers from Arizona State and Colorado.

HUGE TEXAS WEEKEND

Speaking of that Texas game, the list of official visitors has grown to 14 prospects, including eight ranked with 4 stars by Rivals.com.

COMMIT Q&A



DAIMION STAFFORD

At a glance: Rancho Cucamonga (Calif.) Chaffey Community College defensive back Daimion Stafford is the only junior college commit in Nebraska's 2011 recruiting class. Huskers Illustrated caught up with the 4-star recruit in this week's commit spotlight.

CALLAHAN: HSean Callahan: What's the hardest thing about playing junior college football?

STAFFORD: A lot of kids don't know how competitive JUCO football is, so you get a bunch of kids that come on your team that just want to play football, that don't want to win or they don't care about any of that. They just think JUCO football is a big joke. That's probably the biggest thing. People not wanting to win or practice hard and lift weights.

CALLAHAN: You've never experienced a real snow storm before. What are you expecting to see this January when you get to Lincoln and experience it for the first time?

STAFFORD: Hopefully I'm in a house with a big heater.

CALLAHAN: You grew up around Taylor Martinez in California. What is the reaction back home with what he's been able to do for Nebraska this season?

STAFFORD: I knew he was a playmaker, but that guy has stepped it up big time. He's a real good ballplayer.

CALLAHAN: How did Nebraska find you or hear about you?

STAFFORD: I still don't know how they got to see my film or anything. I think it was Taylor (Martinez). I just got a text message from Taylor one day after practice and it said "Dude, you've got an offer from Nebraska. The coaches loved you." I told Taylor he was messing with me because I was just surprised. About three or four days later I got the letter in the mail and a coach came down to visit me and a couple of days later I committed.

2011 Husker Commit List

** AARYN BOUZOS, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
*** DANIEL DAVIE, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
**** RYAN KLACHKO, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
**** TEVIN MITCHEL, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
**** TYLER MOORE, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
**** RYNE REEVES, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
** NIKLAS SADE, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
*** DAVID SANTOS, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
NR DAIMION STAFFORD, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
**** BUBBA STARLING, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
**** ZACH STERUP, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
**** JAMAL TURNER, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
*** KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

James Adeyanju	Quentin Griffin	Wayne Lyons
DE, 6-2, 250 Chicago, Ill.	DE, 6-3, 230 Rayville, La.	Safety, 6-0, 190 Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
Jonathan Aiken	Jalen Grimble	*Dexter Moody
CB, 5-11, 185 Hollywood, Fla.	DE, 6-4, 255 Las Vegas, Nev.	LB, 6-2, 210 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC
Tariq Allen	Jesse Hayes	*Malcolm Moulton
WR, 6-2, 186 Weston, Mass.	DE, 6-4, 230 Cincinnati, Ohio	WR, 5-11, 185 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC
Antoine Arnold	Christian Heyward	Patrick Onwuasor
WR, 6-3, 180 Temecula, Calif.	DT, 6-2, 269 San Diego, Calif.	WR, 6-2, 190 Inglewood, Calif.
Darien Bryant	Cyrus Hobbi	Todd Peat, Jr.
TE, 6-4, 215 Pickerington, Ohio	OL, 6-4, 285 Scottsdale, Ariz.	DT, 6-3, 300 Tempe, Ariz.
Jeremy Cash	Charles Jackson	Givens Mordi Price
S, 6-1, 185 Plantation, Fla.	CB, 5-11, 180 Klein, Texas	OL, 6-4, 278 Houston, Texas
Curt Evans	Mickey Johnson	Miles Shuler
WR, 6-0, 173 Hollywood, Fla.	DT, 6-1, 310 Covington, La.	WR, 5-11, 173 Long Branch, NJ
Christian French	Lake Koa-Kaai	Joel Willis
Athlete, 6-6, 218 Cedar Rapids, IA	DE, 6-4, 250 Honolulu, Hawaii	Athlete, 5-10, 180 Garden Grove, CA
Aaron Green	Keith Lewis	DeVante Wilson
RB, 5-10, 191 San Antonio, TX	LB, 6-0, 194 Lakeland, Fla.	DE, 6-4, 230 Corona, Calif.

* Junior College prospect

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Start time for Texas game bigger than you think

THE GAME time being set for the Texas-Nebraska game was big in more ways than one.

Sure, some fans prefer to have all day for pre-game tailgates and activities only to cap it off with an outstanding game under the lights at Memorial Stadium. There are others who like the early start time, leaving the rest of the day to catch other football games in the afternoon. Head coach Bo Pelini has even said that there are positives and negatives to a specific start time.

For a recruiting weekend, especially the one the Huskers are set to have when Texas comes to town, the start-time announcement was very important.

Heading into the week, the fear was with the Longhorns entering the game with two losses, the chance for an 11 a.m. start time was better than it was, say, four weeks ago. The hope was that a night game would be the setting for a showdown with the Longhorns.

As we all found out recently, the start time is 2:30 p.m. when Texas comes to town. Judging by the amount of expected visitors, it's safe to say that this is a pretty good situation.

The list of recruits who plan to be at the game will come from all over the country. For the most part, the start time

shouldn't affect their ability to get in town for the Tunnel Walk and kickoff.

For those keeping track at home, recruits are coming to Lincoln from Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio, and Texas. Oh and to make things more complicated for those in the athletic department setting up flights, most play Friday night games – it is football season you know.

What the 2:30 p.m. start does is to provide a great opportunity to get every single prospect in the stadium by the time the ball is in the air for the big game.

Yes, many recruits may not get the usual pre-game tour around the stadium, including that pressbox where all the media members sit during the game. There may be a pre-game locker room speech that is missed by a few late visitors.

At the same time, they'll get to see the game and experience what it would be like playing in Memorial Stadium during one of the biggest matchups of the year.

Let's also include one more positive: Though a 2:30 p.m. start may not have the drama of a night game or allow every prospect to get in well before kickoff, you do have a lot longer to spend with

recruits after the game as coaches.

That's huge if you go ahead and dismantle a big opponent in front of their eyes.

Not only will the recruits be able to experience a big afternoon college-football match-up live, but also they'll get the coaches' true reactions faster than the media can get the press conference video up on the Internet.

Let's face reality.

As far back as my Husker recruiting research goes, this is the biggest weekend for the Huskers coming up in many ways. They've never been this far ahead with 13 commits already verbally on board in late July. That makes this weekend even bigger.

The coaches have put plenty of their eggs in this particular weekend basket and that makes it clear they're expecting results on the field and with the prospective student athletes watching it.

You've got the far-and-away top running back target coming in, a host of defensive end targets, and two of the nation's top defensive backs in town for that weekend.

If it's a big win in Lincoln, it could mean an even bigger weekend for the future of the program.

That 2:30 p.m. start time seems a little bit more important now, doesn't it? **N**

Game becoming clearer for Werth

Werth's new look has game coming into focus for the sophomore. I BOB HAMAR



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

HANNAH WERTH HAS HAD VISION PROBLEMS EVER SINCE SHE WAS A YOUNG GIRL.

It all started with an ice-skating crash when she was eight, and after that, one eye was stronger than the other.

Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook could tell that Werth was having problems this fall. The contacts she was wearing just weren't getting the job done.

"I kept saying I knew

something was off, but the problem is, with normal contacts they won't stay in her eyes," Cook said. "We've been trying all these things but nothing stays in. They pop out, so we had to abandon that."

Husker medical personnel eventually suggested the Rec Specs that Werth has been wearing the last

few matches. The early results were extremely encouraging.

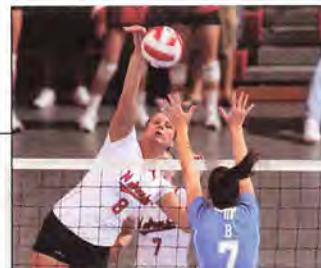
Werth, a sophomore outside hitter for the Huskers, had 13 kills in her first match wearing the Rec Specs against Iowa State. She had eight kills and hit .727 against Colorado and had 12 kills on .310 hitting versus Kansas.

"I think it can be an unbelievable difference," Cook said of the Rec Specs. "Volleyball and sports are about vision. Your balance system and reactions are all based on vision, and if her vision is off that's going to affect her."

"She's such a great athlete that she's compensated, but now I think this can just really simplify things for her, make her feel better and see the game better."

Werth doesn't mind taking some ribbing from her teammates and her coach -- who started calling her "Specs" -- if the glasses help her perform better on the court.

"I think this is what everyone else sees," Werth said. "I don't have a lot of neck issues and headaches I used to have trouble in class trying to see the board. School is really important to me, and I've always struggled taking notes and hearing because I'm so focused on visualizing that



DELANO LEADS BIG 12

Through the first five matches of the Big 12 season, junior middle blocker Brooke Delano was leading the Big 12 Conference in hitting percentage at .426. Junior Jordan Wilberger, a reserve middle blocker was at .369, senior rightside Lindsey Licht .309 and sophomore middle Allison McNeal .451.

The left sides hadn't been nearly as effective. Hannah Werth was hitting .238, Gina Mancuso .202 and Tara Mueller .188.

John Cook said that's part of the trade-off for the Huskers with the rather unusual 6-2 system they're using.

"We're not in a system that features our left sides," Cook said. "Now we can go to them if we need to. At Iowa State, Hannah took over the match, but right now our system is designed to be middle and outside."

BANWARTH DIGGING IT

Senior libero Kayla Banwarth is closing in on Jennifer Saleaumua's school record for career digs. Banwarth entered the season needing just 382 digs to set the record after recording 570 as a junior. Now she only needs about 100 more digs to set the record.

HOT IN SEPTEMBER

The Huskers' 11-0 record in September this season should come as no surprise. Historically, NU's best months have been September (297-25) and November (207-18). Prior to Nebraska's three losses in September of 2009, NU hadn't lost a match in September since 2004.

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28 KENTUCKY QWEST CENTER OMAHA W, 3-0

SUN, AUG 29 FLORIDA QWEST CENTER OMAHA L, 2-3

TUE, AUG 31 CREIGHTON OMAHA, NEB. W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 3 BYU PROVO, UTAH W, 3-1

SAT, SEP 4 CAL POLY PROVO, UTAH W, 3-0

SAT, SEP 4 IDAHO STATE PROVO, UTAH W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 9 DAYTON NU COLISEUM W, 3-1

FRI, SEP 10 W. MICHIGAN NU COLISEUM W, 3-0

SAT, SEP 11 ILLINOIS DEVANEY W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15 IOWA STATE * AMES, IOWA W, 3-1

SAT, SEP 18 COLORADO * NU COLISEUM W, 3-0

WED, SEP 22 KANSAS * NU COLISEUM W, 3-0

SAT, SEP 25 BAYLOR * WACO, TEXAS W, 3-0

WED, SEP 29 OKLAHOMA * NORMAN, OKLA. W, 3-1

SAT, OCT 2 TEXAS * NU COLISEUM W, 3-1

WED, OCT 6 MISSOURI * COLUMBIA, MO. W, 3-0

SAT, OCT 9 TEXAS A&M * NU COLISEUM 7 P.M.

SAT, OCT 16 KANSAS STATE * MANHATTAN, KAN. 7 P.M.

WED, OCT 20 TEXAS TECH * NU COLISEUM 7 P.M.

SAT, OCT 23 MISSOURI * NU COLISEUM TBA

WED, OCT 27 TEXAS * AUSTIN, TEXAS 8 P.M.

SAT, OCT 30 IOWA STATE * NU COLISEUM TBA

WED, NOV 3 KANSAS * LAWRENCE, KAN. 6:30 P.M.

SAT, NOV 6 TEXAS TECH * LUBBOCK, TEXAS 6:30 P.M.

WED, NOV 10 KANSAS STATE * NU COLISEUM 7 P.M.

SAT, NOV 13 COLORADO * BOULDER, COLO. TBA

WED, NOV 17 OKLAHOMA * NU COLISEUM 7 P.M.

WED, NOV 24 BAYLOR * NU COLISEUM 7 P.M.

SAT, NOV 27 TEXAS A&M * COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS TBA

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3-4 NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS TBA

FRI, DEC 10-11 NCAA REGIONALS TBA

THU, DEC 16 NCAA SEMIFINALS KANSAS CITY, MO. TBA

SAT, DEC 18 NATIONAL TITLE KANSAS CITY, MO. TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

it's difficult. I'm really happy we're figuring it out."

The eye problem was a hindrance to Werth, but it certainly was never going to stop her. She figured out a long time ago that you have to be tough to survive in the world of athletics, and that message was driven home by older siblings Jayson and Hillary while they were growing up in Springfield, Ill.

Jayson, 30, has made his name in Major League Baseball and helped the Philadelphia Phillies to back-to-back World Series appearances, including a World Series championship in 2008. Hillary, 23, competes in track at UCLA.

"We were so competitive," Hannah said. "It was me, him and my sister. We played home run derby. We had a batting cage in the back yard. A basketball hoop, too."

"They kind of pushed me around. I credit my brother and sister with making me tough. Definitely."

Eventually, Hannah kind of overtook her track star sister and extracted at least a little revenge.

"I'm a pretty big-sized girl," she said. "I out-grew my sister, so I kind of showed her when I got older."

Hannah showed a lot of people when she started playing volleyball when she was in the sixth grade, but she didn't get serious about it until she was a freshman in high school. She played basketball her

freshman year, and really liked it, but dropped out halfway through that season when club volleyball started.

Although the Werth children were city kids, their dad Dennis grew up a farm boy. Not only did Hannah get her size and athletic ability from her parents -- her mother Kim was a track star at the University of Florida and her father played four years in the Major Leagues with the Yankees and the

Royals -- but she also got her blue-collar work ethic from her dad.

"I'm just kind of a strong girl," Werth said.

"I kind of take after my dad and my family. We're just kind of farm people, I guess you could say, kind of hard-working, and he passed it on to me. My family has had a big impact on me. If you want to succeed, you have to work hard."

Werth is certainly succeeding with the Huskers. She's just halfway through her sophomore season, so there is still so much more for her -- and her teammates -- to do.

"I think my journey here at Nebraska is just beginning," Werth said. "I've had a lot of success in the past that I wouldn't have had without my teammates. They're always there for me. They're working just as hard as anybody in the country. We have that special unity on the court and off the court."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL SOFTBALL WOMEN'S GOLF SOCCER

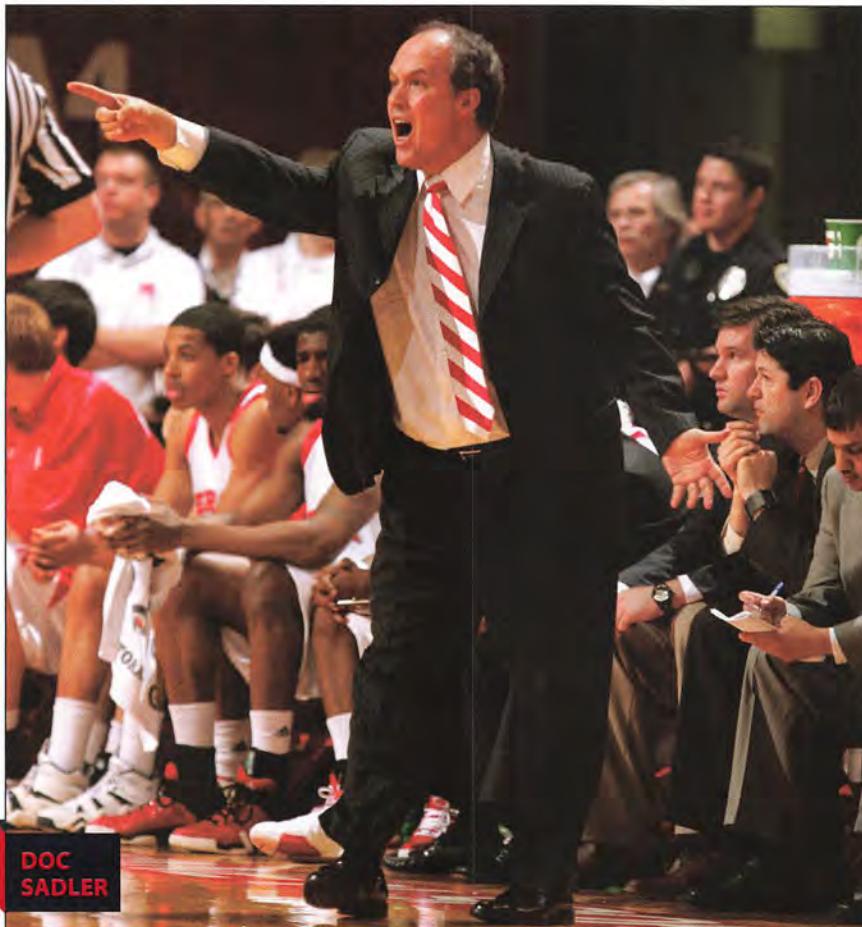


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Basketball practice begins Oct. 15, but Nebraska players first endured what coach Doc Sadler likes to call Championship Week.

Others have called it boot camp.

Whatever the name, it's back after a year's

absence. The H1NI virus this time last year caused Sadler to cancel Championship Week, something he'd done every season since his arrival in 2006.

"We had some guys who got sick last year, and I was worried about some of those guys losing too much weight doing

it," Sadler said. "We were scheduled to do it last year, but we decided not to at the last moment."

Championship Week is five days of grueling conditioning, with some basketball action mixed in as the NCAA rules allow.

"It's 90-percent mental," Sadler said. "Physically, these guys



GOLF

Madeleine Sheils matched her career-best three-round total with a 223 in Nebraska's fourth-place team finish at the 12-team Marilyn Smith/Sunflower Invitational in Lawrence, Kan.

In men's golf, Andrew Wyatt shot a nine-over 222 and placed fifth at the D.A. Weibring Intercollegiate in Normal, Ill. The second and third rounds were completed on the same day, and Nebraska finished third as a team, 34 strokes behind first-place Illinois.

SOCCER

Nebraska completed a 1-1 road trip through Texas, losing 2-1 at Baylor, then rebounding with a 5-4 overtime victory at Texas Tech.

Freshman Ari Romero scored her first career goal, a rebound header in the 92nd minute, to lift the Huskers over the Red Raiders, improving Nebraska to 9-4 overall, and 2-2 in Big 12 Conference play.

are able to do a lot more than what we're asking them to do. Mentally, we do some different things. (Strength) Coach Rusty (Ruffcorn) has done some great things that are different. It taxes them – 6 a.m. in the morning, they start stretching at 5:30. It's difficult. It's more mental than anything."

Besides newcomer Andre Almeida, who's been aggravated with a strained calf muscle and has missed some court time, the Huskers have held up fairly well in the pre-practice workouts.

And all's not bad for Almeida – the 6-foot-10 center has lost more than 20 pounds since arriving on campus, Sadler said.

"So far, so good," Sadler said of his team's response to Championship Week. "The conditioning part of it has been really good. The basketball part, you'd like to be able to do more, but you're still restricted to two hours a week. Obviously, you'd like to be able to do more, but they've done fine."

STROWBRIDGE TO OREGON

Jay-R Strowbridge left Nebraska's program after the 2007-08 season, saying he wanted to play closer

to home. So the Ardmore, Ala., native transferred to nearby Jacksonville State.

Now Strowbridge's career path has taken an unexpected turn – and a wide one. He has enrolled at Oregon, where he's anticipating an NCAA waiver that will allow him to use his final year of eligibility this season.

Strowbridge has earned his undergraduate degree, and because he's enrolled in a graduate program, he can play this season, per the NCAA's approval. He's working toward his graduate degree in peace studies and conflict

resolutions, and has been cleared by the Pac-10 Conference.

Strowbridge, citing personal reasons, left Jacksonville State mid-season last year. He'd planned on enrolling in graduate school at Arkansas State before changing his mind and going to Oregon, which is coached by former Creighton coach Dana Altman.

Altman, in his first year at Oregon, was down to nine scholarship players after center Michael Dunigan suddenly signed with a professional

team in Israel earlier this month. Four other underclassmen had already left the program. Altman cancelled a summer trip to Italy because attrition and injuries had reduced his roster to six healthy players.

SOFTBALL

Nebraska honored former Husker pitcher Peaches James by retiring her No. 42 jersey before a fall exhibition doubleheader against the National ProFastpitch All-Stars.

James was a four-time, first-team All-Big 12



selection from 2001-2004, becoming the first pitcher to earn four first-team honors in league history. During a stellar senior season in 2004, James was named a second-team NFCA All-American in addition to being named Big 12 Player of the Year and Big 12 Tournament MVP.

For her career, James boasted a 98-38 record with a 1.19 ERA and 945 strikeouts in 917.1 innings. She threw 44 shutouts, including three no-hitters, and tossed one of only three perfect games in Nebraska history.

"It just brings me back to my four years here, seeing all the support," James

said. "Walking out and seeing all that Husker red brought back memories."

The All-Stars won the doubleheader – 10-3 and 7-0. Olympian Cat

Oesterman threw a no-hitter and struck out 20 in the second game.



HUSKERS } ILLUSTRATED DIGITAL EDITION

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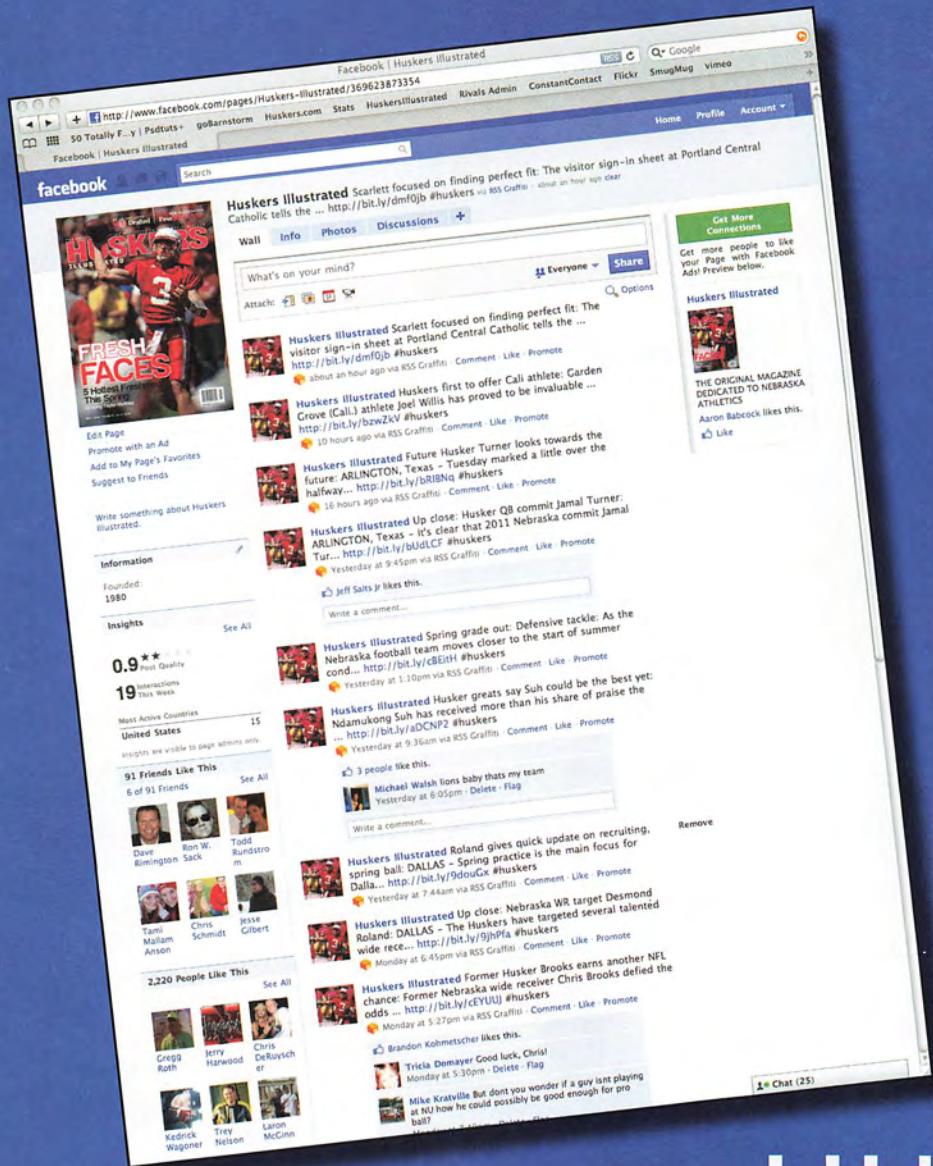
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIRST TIME ON TV

An estimated 80 million viewers on 90 stations across the country watched the Nebraska-Oregon football game, the first Husker game ever televised, at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 19, 1953. Mel Allen (shown here that day), long known as the voice of the New York Yankees, handled the play-by-play description for the NBC telecast, with Lindsey Nelson doing color commentary. General Motors was the corporate sponsor for the telecast, which required four cameras and the laying of some 1,000 feet of cable. A 21-inch console television set could be purchased for \$140, on sale, at Consumers Mart in Lincoln. Whether such an investment was worthwhile for Husker fans wanting to watch the game instead of attending (a crowd of 31,000 was on-hand) is debatable. Nebraska lost 20-12.



GAMES REMEMBERED

Rematch was no-doubter

A loss at Texas during the regular season cost the Huskers a chance at a national title. The rematch was a different story.

PAYBACK was sweet. And there was no doubt the second time.

Despite a significant statistical advantage, No. 3 Nebraska lost three-of-five fumbles and was upset by Texas 24-20 during the regular season at Austin in 1999. The No. 18-ranked Longhorns capitalized for a field goal after the first of the fumble recoveries, and the other two were self-destructive, both coming in the red zone. Nebraska was at the Texas 1-yard line when it lost the third with 12:19 remaining.

The Cornhuskers got a second chance

at Texas in the Big 12 Championship game, however, and made the most of it. Though they again turned over the ball three times, their defense stepped up, smothering an offense that ranked first in the Big 12 and 12th nationally in total yards.

The Blackshirts blitzed on nearly every down and sacked Texas quarterback Major Applewhite seven times. They intercepted three of his passes, and he could complete only 15 of the other 39.

They also limited running back Hodges Mitchell, who had

rushed for more than 1,300 yards during the season, to 14 yards on seven carries, all but one of the carries coming in the first half.

At halftime, Texas had a rushing net of minus-24 yards. The Longhorns finished with plus-6.

In the first quarter, Nebraska gained 111 yards and scored 10 points, all it really needed.

TEXAS COACH MACK BROWN:

"We were no-dimensional in the first half. At halftime, I was mad and I didn't know who to be mad at."

(3) NEBRASKA 22, (12) TEXAS 6

Oct. 15, 1994 • Manhattan, Kan.

Texas	0	0	0	6	--	6
Nebraska	10	5	7	0	--	22

(N) Josh Brown 42 field goal

(N) Eric Crouch 31 run (Brown kick)

(N) Brown 21 field goal

(N) Texas team safety

(N) Crouch 4 run (Brown kick)

(T) Ahmad Brooks 20 fumble return (pass failed)

Attendance: 65,035

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► *Oops. After the teams' regular-season meeting, Longhorns quarterback Major Applewhite was quoted by Tim Layden of Sports Illustrated as saying that he knew playing the Huskers wasn't "going to be calculus."*

► *Applewhite and Husker quarterback Eric Crouch shared the coaches' Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year award. Both were sophomores.*

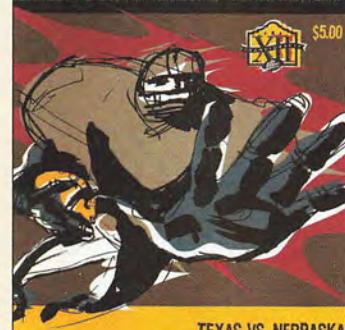
► *Crouch threw a pass interception in the second quarter. He had gone 32 quarters and 123 attempts without an interception.*

► *Senior cornerback Ralph Brown started a school-record 51st consecutive game.*

► *The regular-season loss at Texas cost the Huskers a shot at the national championship. Florida State and Virginia Tech, both undefeated, played for the BCS title in the Sugar Bowl. Nebraska defeated No. 6 Tennessee 31-21 in the Fiesta Bowl and finished No. 2 in the coaches' poll, while remaining No. 3 in the Associated Press poll.*

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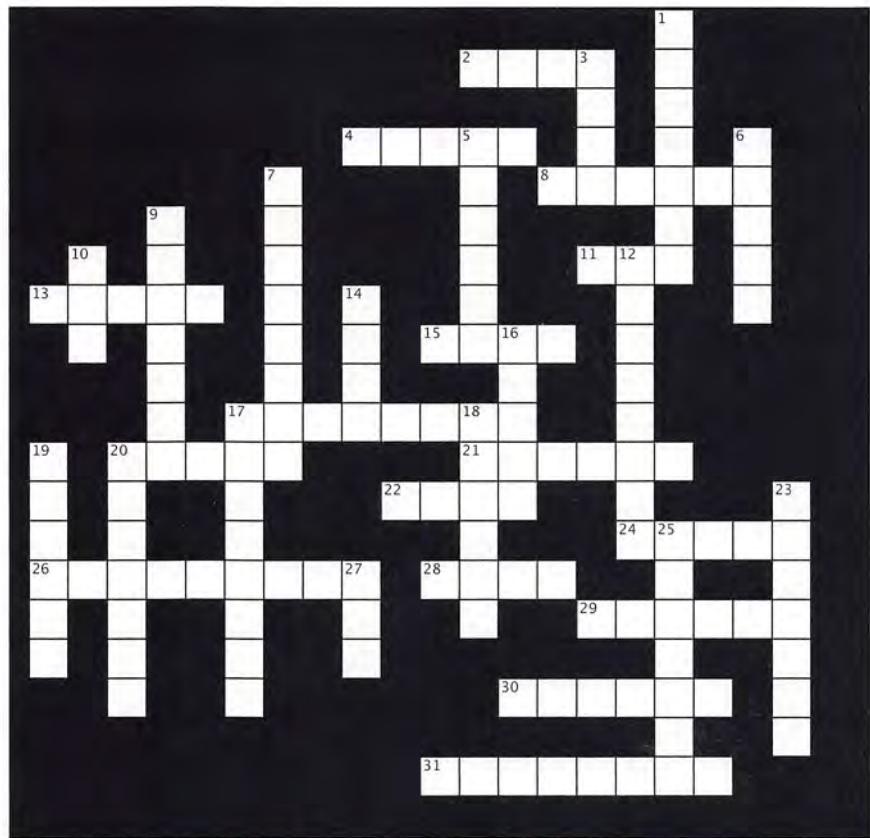
ACROSS

- I-back from California
- Former Texas quarterback
- 1997 Outland Trophy winner
- Texas' former conference (abbrev.)
- 2009 Big 12 champion
- Running backs coach
- Leading rusher vs. South Dakota State
- Leading tackler vs. South Dakota State
- Nov. 13 opponent
- Scored first career touchdown vs. South Dakota State
- Wears No. 13 (defense)
- Texas nickname
- Texas mascot
- Leading receiver vs. South Dakota State
- Texas campus location
- Texas' 1977 Heisman Trophy winner

DOWN

- Kicker from Texas
- First team to defeat Texas this season
- Texas school color
- Texas head coach
- I-back from Texas
- Defeated Texas in Jan. 7 BCS National Championship game
- Wears No. 5 (offense)
- Texas' 1998 Heisman Trophy winner
- Wears No. 5 (defense)
- Jared Crick's hometown
- Oct. 30 opponent
- Linebackers coach
- Linebacker from Texas
- Wears No. 15 (defense)
- 1992 Outland Trophy winner
- Had career-long 64-yard reception vs. South Dakota State
- 2009 Associated Press Player of the Year

Answers will appear in the Oct. 23 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



YOUR NEWLY-ENGAGED DAUGHTER ANNOUNCES THAT SHE WANTS TO HAVE HER WEDDING ON A HUSKER HOME GAME SATURDAY.



BRAIN BUSTER

Which brothers have not both been Cornhusker co-captains: Erik and Zach Wiegert, Grant and Tracey Wistrom, Rob and Jon Zatechka, Barrett and Bo Ruud, Christian and Jason Peter, Chad and Chris Kelsay, Josh and Daniel Bullocks.

Answer will appear in our next issue

OCT. 7 ANSWER: Wayne Meylan (1965-67)

OCTOBER 7 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Martinez stands out on national stage

GIVE TAYLOR MARTINEZ an inch, and he'll take a mile. OK, not a mile, though he probably would if a football field were that long. So give him an inch, and he'll take 35 yards, or 41 yards or 80 yards, whatever distance the end zone is from the line of scrimmage.

The hole opens, however briefly, Martinez reads it and is transformed into the Roadrunner. Beep, beep, whooosh . . . with those dust whirls, and defenders, trailing behind him.

It's something to behold, unless, of course, you're an opposing defensive coordinator.

Big 12 defensive coordinators won't miss Nebraska when it moves to the Big Ten a year from now, not with Martinez directing the offense – or rather, carrying the ball in it.

On this particular night in Manhattan, Kan., a national television audience, courtesy of ESPN, beheld Martinez at his breakaway, big-play best. And though he's a redshirted freshman, a mere pup as it were, there's bound to be the conjunction of his name and the phrase "Heisman Trophy candidate" somewhere other than the sentence you're reading right now, somewhere national.

Sure, Michigan has Denard Robinson. And he might have a bit of a head start. But Martinez is closing fast. T-Magic has had a pretty good

season's worth of statistics already, in five games.

And just when you think you've seen a vulnerability in him, off he goes. His 80-yard touchdown run on the third play from scrimmage in the second half, for example. "It was just a quarterback draw," said Martinez. "The first time I saw it (in the first half), I made a wrong read."

Read right it became much more than "just a quarterback draw." It became a to-the-house sprint.

Now for a brief behind-the-scenes look at the remarkable runs by Martinez, as well as the 68-yard touchdown run by I-back Roy Helu, Jr. that followed the 80-yard run by about 2½ minutes.

"The offensive line has a big thing to do with it," Helu said.

So the names of offensive linemen should be mentioned here, too: Jeremiah Sirles and D.J. Jones, the tackles; Keith Williams and Ricky Henry, the guards; and Mike Caputo, the center.

"You go to national championship teams and you look at the linemen," said Helu. "If they can't run-block, it's pretty obvious. The people who are going to win game on a consistent basis are going to have linemen that get after it. And right now our offensive line . . ."

You can finish the sentence the way

the Husker line is finishing blocks.

Nebraska's offensive linemen are getting after it.

"Our perception in the national media, they don't really care about our program," Helu said. "That's fine. It's OK. We wouldn't have it any other way. So to get a game like this and for Taylor and the (offensive) linemen to perform like they did is great."

The national media will take Martinez's performance and run with it, adding him to the Heisman mix. But it won't likely change him. He's been as consistent personally as he is flashy with the ball in his hands. "He's always the same kid, doesn't say much, confident not cocky, silent, the same all the way through," said Helu.

Early in the fourth quarter, with Nebraska in control, Martinez was sacked for a 9-yard loss. As the play ended, Kansas State defensive end Brandon Harold delivered a blow to the top of the Husker quarterback's helmet, drawing a 15-yard personal foul penalty.

Instead of fourth-and-14, the Huskers had first-and-10 at the Kansas State 41-yard line. And you know what happened next. The defense gave an inch – or more accurately, perhaps, was forced to give an inch by the Nebraska offensive line. And Martinez took 41 yards, slick as can be.

Beep, beep, whooosh . . . **N**

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